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Hafa Adai!

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CABINET LOSES SEASONED TOURISM VET

Perry Tenorio to leave MVA

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Tenorio

Perry Tenorio, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, has expressed his intent to leave the top post of the CNMI's tourism body, following two decades of service there and close to a decade as managing director.

See TENORIO on Page 4

ON ALLEGED 'UNCONSTITUTIONALITY' OF TORRES VETO

Hocog calls on lawmakers to sit down and work things out

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Hocog

A legal opinion by Attorney General Edward Manibusan shared this week labels several attempted amendments to casino law last year as "unconstitutional" and outside legislative authority, and gives some background to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' exercise of veto powers that House majority leaders in turn declared as "unconstitutional."

It appears to be two-way street of cries of unconstitutionality, in the most recent dispute between the executive and legislative branch. On Tuesday, House leaders rallied on the grounds that Torres had no authority to line-item veto House bill

See HOCOG on Page 4

UNWTO report: China leads global outbound tourism

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» 39 pct of CNMI arrivals are from China

China has led the 2015 global outbound tourism, a report released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization said.

According to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer released last month, international tourist arrivals grew by 4.4 percent in 2015 to reach a total of 1.184 million.

China, along with few other lead-

See UNWTO on Page 4

LIBDAY ROYALTY

Last year's CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court Princesses Ashley Tabilisma, left, Mary Jane Anon, upper right, and Stephanie Camacho pose with the statue of Liberation Day mascot Animu at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

JON PEREZ

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Mt. Carmel School named Filmah Buenaflor as its Teacher of the Year Tuesday.
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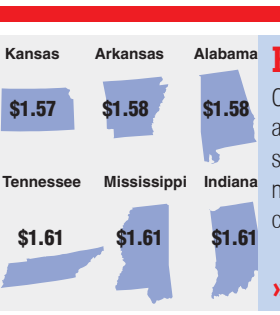
LOCAL
The Marianas Visitors Authority has appointed a Korea Marianas Tourism Council comprised of CEOs and presidents of top Korean travel agencies and Asiana Airlines.
» PAGE 13



BUSINESS
Cheap oil is wreaking havoc and causing uncertainty for some governments and businesses, while creating financial windfalls for others.
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Local

Chinese community starts Lunar New Year celebration

JON PEREZ

Chinese Association of Saipan president Jerry Tan, fourth left, joins Paseo de Marianas Inc. member Misako Kamata, second left, Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas, third right, Furusato owner Hideaki Sawada, second right, in Tuesday night's ribbon-cutting and lighting ceremony of Chinese lanterns in time for the Lunar New Year celebration.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Chinese Association of Saipan kicked off its festivities for the coming Lunar New Year by lighting up the Paseo de Marianas with red-colored lanterns.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Tuesday night attended by CAS officials led by president Jerry Tan, former head Rose Chan and their members, PDM Promoters Inc. officers Misako Kamata and Hideaki Sawada, and Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas.

Chan said the ribbon-cutting ceremony faced the east based on the old Chinese thought feng shui, a belief that harmonizes everyone with the environment and related to the flow of energy.

"It is traditionally to us Chinese to face the east for good fortune. The sun rises in the east and the wind direction also starts eastward. That's why we are trying to attract good fortune and money for the businesses here at PDM," said Chan, who is also the CAS director for education.

The Canton Restaurant owner added that lighting up the PDM with Chinese lanterns would attract more local and foreign tourists as they prepare for the celebration of the Year of the Fire Monkey in the Chinese Lunar calendar.

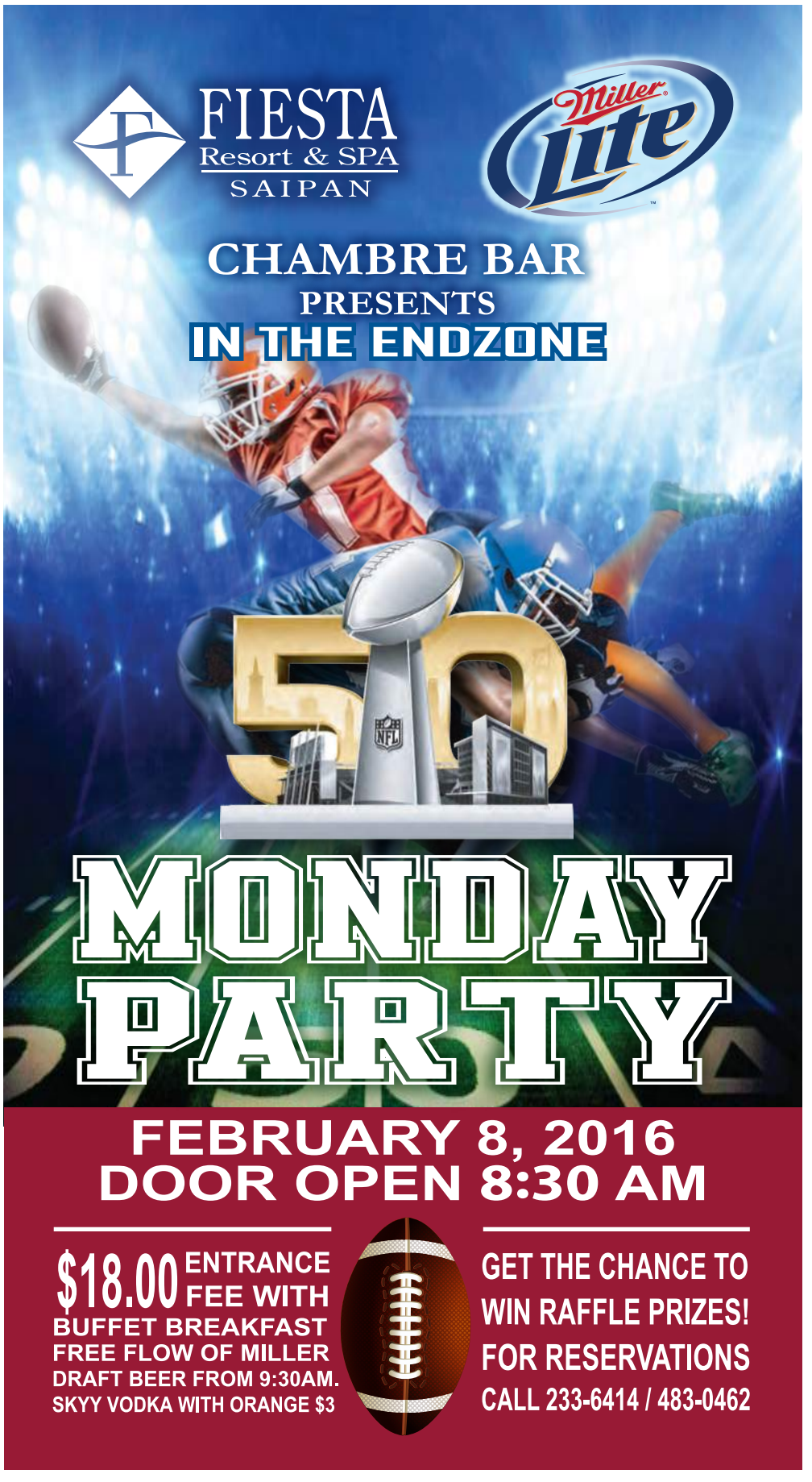
"We will try to make this a yearly event but of course we need the community's support. The PDM looks good and the view is nice for our community and the tourists," said Chan.

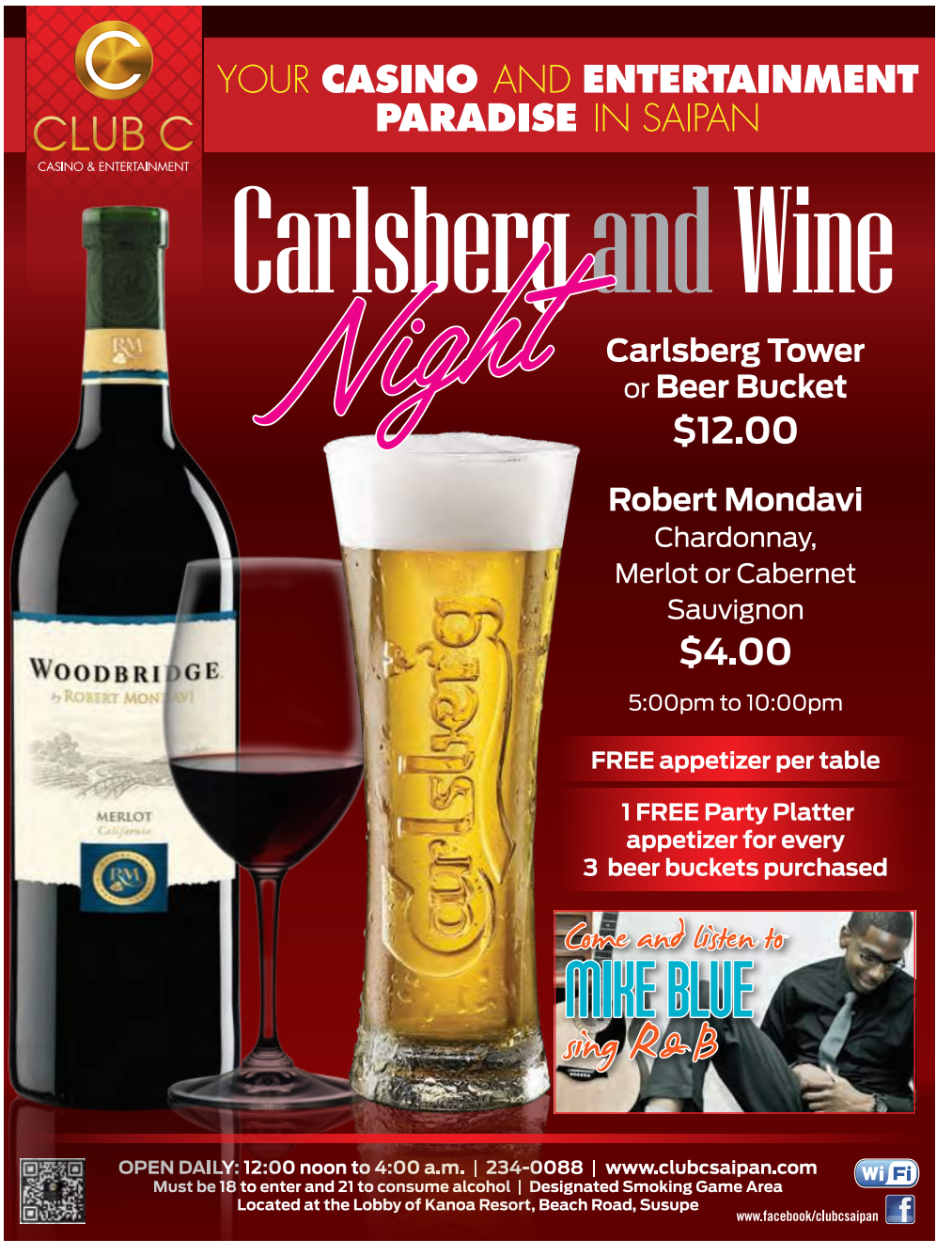
Chan said that they also lined up a lot of activities for the coming Lunar New Year that the community could take join in the celebration.

The traditional lion dance will start on Feb. 8 at 8am at the TSL Plaza in Garapan and the dancers will visit more than 30 business establishments and they would end their performance at the Saipan World Resort at 9pm.

Acrobats from China and a bian lian performance, the Chinese dramatic art of face-changing, are also scheduled on Feb. 13 at PDM.

They will also be serving Chinese New Year food and will hold a demonstration of dumpling and noodle-making.





TO COLLECT COURT JUDGMENTS VS GOVT

OAG: Persons can lobby to lawmakers, avail of tax offsetting program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

To get payments from court judgments against the CNMI government, persons can lobby to lawmakers or avail of tax offsets program, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for the government, said historically, persons with judgments and other claims against governments have lobbied legislatures for private bills to pay them.

Lochabay also stated that the CNMI has instituted a program where persons with judgments against the Commonwealth may obtain payments through tax offsets.

Lochabay discussed the court judgments issue in the government's response to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's question if there is any other mechanism for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon and Timothy Cruz to seek payment of their judgment against the government in light of the repeated failure of the Legislature to appropriate for court-ordered judgments.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a $35,000 judgment against the government over the death of their child during delivery in 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Camacho also raised other questions as he invited the Legislature, the Office of the Governor-Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Finance to submit briefs or declarations over the government's failure to pay judgments in connection with two lawsuits, including the wrongful death filed by couple Aguon and Cruz.

As to the issue of unbalanced budget, Lochabay said the constitutional amendment mandating a shut-down of all non-essential government services for failure to pass a balanced budget states: "The proposed balanced budget shall describe anticipated revenues of the Commonwealth and recommend expenditures of Commonwealth funds."

Lochabay said nowhere in the amendment is there any requirement to pay down debt.

He asserted that a budget needs only to "describe anticipated revenues" and "recommend expenditures of Commonwealth funds."

Lochabay said the current budget satisfies those requirements and is balanced pursuant to the Planning and Budgeting Act.

Lochabay said the court's ruling in the Marine Revitalization Corp.'s case specifically authorized the trial court to order payment of funds appropriated for the payment of judgments ($20,000) in the operative budget at the of the MRC decision.

However, Lochabay said, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has already ordered the government to pay the $8,000 appropriated in the current budget to different judgment holders.

As to reprogramming issue, he said, the court is prohibited by statute from ordering the reprogramming of funds.

On the question whether a CNMI annual budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced if it does not specifically name the judgments owed by the government, Lochabay said naming the judgments without appropriating funds for payment would be useless.

He said the budget does not contain the names of creditors, judgment or otherwise, or amounts owed to them.

Lochabay said the only requirement for a balanced budget is that anticipated revenues be at least equal to recommended expenditures.

Lochabay said as the current budget balanced recommended expenditures with anticipated revenues, the Legislature would not be able to constitutionally pass a supplemental budget, absent an increase in revenues, because such supplemental budget

See OAG on Page 4

BECQ, NMC holds climate change and impacts seminar

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The CNMI and the rest of the Pacific Region is in the frontlines of climate change, according to seminar held at the Northern Marianas College last Monday.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Pacific Island Office Region 9 manager John McCarroll discussed the various impacts of climate change around the globe to students as well as people from various key agencies on island.

"This is serious. Climate change is serious. And here in the CNMI, you're living in the frontlines of climate change," McCarroll said.

Among the impacts that McCarroll mentioned which could also be noted in the CNMI are the increase of typhoon activities, increase in temperature, and sea level rise.

McCarroll said that about seven or nine out of the 10 hottest years were recorded in the year 2000s.

"If you're looking at 2014, it was the hottest year worldwide since they started keeping record," McCarroll said, "Then 2015 shattered that record. 2015 was the hottest year by a wide range."

He also mentioned the situation being faced by low-lying islands such as the Marshall Islands.

"For the people who live in the Marshall Islands, which is an atoll nation, it's a very low island, they have experienced four times since 2013 that the sea went completely over land on the capital island of Majuro," McCarroll said.

"Before, that only happened once in a generation or so," he added.

McCaroll also noted the effect of the increasing ocean temperature on the underwater ecosystem.

"Corals are in trouble. Ocean species are in trouble. Both because of bleaching as sea surface is getting warmer," McCarroll said

McCaroll said the effects of climate change are getting bad and it's going to get worse unless all of us do something.

In the CNMI, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality-Division of Coastal Resources Management lead coastal resources planner Erin Derrington enumerated different initiatives that the division has taken in response to climate change.

Among these are the vulnerability assessments for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

McCarroll noted that the CNMI has been the first in the region to do such an assessment.

Derrington also said the Climate Change Working Group, which was established years ago but has lost momentum, recently reconvened this month to address various challenges regarding climate change. They renamed the group Reliency Working Group

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Hocog to appoint Manglona; hires John Gonzales as chief of staff

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Acting governor Victor Hocog said he would sign yesterday a letter to appoint runner-up Paul Manglona to the vacant Senate seat Hocog left when he ascended to the post of lieutenant governor following the passing of late governor Eloy S. Inos.

But at the same time, Hocog said he wanted to sit down and talk with Manglona to "cool" the fires of any potential rumbling between Rota lawmakers and Manglona, who came in third behind Sens. Steven K. Mesngon (R-Rota) and Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) in the last election.

"I was calling the senator [Manglona] to come here so I can make the appointment but he's not responding so maybe he's not interested," Hocog told reporters on Capitol Hill yesterday. "I am going to reach out to him today to see if he can come up. I'd like to talk to him before I sign his appointment. I have the appointment letter ready."

Hocog said he would sign the letter yesterday. When asked elaborate on what he'd like to share with Manglona, Hocog said he'd like to discuss "the navigation of what we plan to accomplish" and "see if we can all work together with the Legislature and try to address issues of importance."

"To work with the administration as well," he added. Particularly, he said "issues with the [Rota] delegation" and Manglona that Hocog said he would like to "extinguish."

"If there is fire being created I'd like to cool it off and bring them together," Hocog said.

Gonzales heads to Capitol Hill

Hocog also informed senior staff members yesterday of his appointment of John O. Gonzales to serve as his chief of staff. Gonzales, a former Joeten Kiyu Public Library executive director who resigned from the post last March, began his work at the Lt. Governor's Office yesterday.

Prior to being appointed to this post, Gonzales served various management positions at the NMI National State Library and NMI Department of Public Lands. He was a policy cabinet member in a prior administration with extensive policy, NMI-Federal relations, and capital infrastructure improvement work, and was a legal policy staffer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. including as a legislative staffer at the NMI Senate.

Many know Gonzales as the host and producer of the TV talk show and talk radio on Sundays on Magic Radio 100.3 FM. Gonzales is also Truman Scholar Institute Fellow out of the U.S. Department of Interior in 1992 in which he performed legislative analysis and legal research, reviewed white papers, prepared reports and presented to department and U.S. Congressional officials. Gonzales also has a master's degree in International Management from the University of Phoenix (2005); spent a summer at Duke University (2000), and is an alumnus of Washington State University in Pullman, Washington (1993). He graduated summa Cum Laude from the Northern Mariana's College (1991) after being the salutatorian at Marianas High School (1989).

TENORIO

From Page 1

Tenorio announced his intent to move on from MVA in a Jan. 26 letter to the tourism board. He is expected to depart by March 25 this year.

"I greatly appreciate the trust and confidence the MVA board of directors placed in me to manage the MVA and its assets," Tenorio said in his letter. "This momentous task would not have been possible without the board's guidance and direction, and for this, I am truly grateful and honored.

"It has been a great experience serving the board and the our travel industry partners these past nine and half years."

Tenorio said he has been honored to work alongside management and staff of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota's MVA offices, as well as with their offshore team, AviaReps, calling this MVA team "capable and instrumental" in rebuilding the CNMI travel industry.

"In light of the importance of the travel industry, I will begin transitioning the management of the MVA to the deputy managing director [Judy Torres] and encourage the board to appoint my successor at the earliest convenience. In this regard, my tenure as managing director will end no more than two months from the date of this letter; or sooner following the appointment of my successor."

Tenorio has worked at the visitor's authority for 21 years. He has weathered some criticism from lawmakers for a dwindling Japanese market, but was praised by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administration officials yesterday for a data-driven approach that helped secure the groundwork for where MVA stands today.

HOCOG

From Page 1

19-95, an amendment to the casino law, after passing both upper and lower house late last year. House leaders essentially declared Torres' line-item vetoes—of casino tax relief and legislative oversight of casino license revocation, among others—as inappropriate, arguing that bill was not an appropriations bill—as Torres deemed it—and therefore outside the mark of the governor's veto pen.

However, acting governor Victor Hocog scoffed yesterday at House leaders who poised the option of override during the Tuesday session. "So what happened?" Hocog told reporters after a proclamation-signing event. "So why didn't they override [the bill]? Was the session intended yesterday for the override action?"

An override discussion was not scheduled on Tuesday's agenda but put on the table after lawmakers pulled out Torres' veto message letter from early December, some two months ago.

"I can only say that, that it is their prerogative," Hocog went on to say. "If they feel it is was it is in their opinion, they should act on it before the time runs out. Right?" The deadline for override is today.

Asked if he shared the position that the casino law amendment was an appropriations bill—which House leaders disagree with—Hocog said, this was a "two-way street." He went on to note the bill's provisions to provide full time positions at the Commonwealth Casino Commission and funding to monitor the Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s temporary casino.

If the recent law legitimizes the gaming commission's regulatory powers, Hocog said, then the commission would "definitely" have been impacted by an override. But still, if House proceeded with an override and the Senate "sat on it" then "what's the use?" Hocog asked.

If lawmakers felt strongly about their position that Torres' actions were unconstitutional, Hocog said, "then they should have come over and discussed that" with the executive branch so they could "agree on what do" or "expedite" new legislation without affecting the operations of the casino commission.

According to Hocog, lawmakers never brought the issue to his or the Executive Branch's attention. "I was a little bit surprised yesterday when I was given a heads up that the House is considering to override the governor's line-item veto."

"The best bet is to sit down," Hocog said, "and come up with a language that will satisfy constitutional sufficiency. And at the same time, "not jeopardize" the provisions "that provided employment and operations of the gaming commission."

Hocog welcomed the leaders in the House to sit down with the governor, himself, and the attorney general and discuss "what is unconstitutional" so "they could correct it before codification."

AG opinion

When pressed, Torres officials continued to maintain that the main intent of House Bill 19-95 was to appropriate money. And because of this, officials said, they went through the same steps that an appropriations bill would require, and line-item vetoed the bill's "blatant, unconstitutional" provisions.

From attorney to client, Manibusan, in a letter to Torres last year, wrote of "legal issues" with House Bill 19-95.

On an amendment to casino law that would have prevented Saipan casino regulators from revoking the casino license "without the consent of both houses of the Legislature," Manibusan said, lawmakers did not possess this constitutional authority.

"The Commonwealth government is divided into three coordinate branches," he said, and the separation of powers doctrine "safeguard[s] the independence of each branch of the government and protect it from domination and interference by others."

The Executive Branch is responsible for the execution of the laws of the Commonwealth, Manibusan said, and "requiring legislative approval for the revocation of the casino license violates the separation of powers doctrine because the Commonwealth Legislature would be exercising a power that the constitution has assigned to the Executive Branch."

"While the Commonwealth Legislature can prescribe general rules on the regulation of casino gambling in the Commonwealth, it has absolutely no authority to require legislative approval of the revocation of the casino license," he added.

Further, the Commonwealth Constitution requires legislation to be presented to the governor for approval or veto, Manibusan said. "Any attempt to allow the Legislature to overturn an agency division without the governor's consent would violate" the NMI Constitution.

UNWTO

From Page 1

ing source markets such as the U.S. and he United Kingdom, led the outbound travel growth and has driven tourism expenditure last year supported by a strong currency and economy.

"Among the world's top source markets, China, with double-digit growth in expenditure every year since 2004, continues to lead global outbound travel, benefitting Asian destinations such as Japan and Thailand, as well as the United States and various European destinations," the report said.

Citing statistics from China National Administration Tourism, *China Daily* reported that a total of 120 million Chinese people traveled overseas in 2015, making it the third year in a row that China topped the list of international outbound travelers

39 percent

The CNMI has also benefited from the growth of Chinese tourism.

For calendar year 2015, the Marianas Visitors Authority noted that visitor arrivals to the islands rose 4 percent compared to the previous year.

According to their latest data, out of the 478,592 arrivals recorded for 2015, about 39 percent or 186,509 are Chinese travelers.

"Due to our proximity to China and the CNMI-only DHS (Department of Homeland Security) parole authority, the Northern Marianas Islands is in a prime position to capitalize on the outbound China market, as we started doing when the Marianas Visitors Authority first began market diversification nearly 10 years ago," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

"In addition to our proximity, our clean, tropical environmental, and our status as a part of the United States are both attractive features to visitors from China," he added.

Tenorio said the Commonwealth welcomes visitors from China but will work on market diversification as well.

"We warmly welcome visitors from China, while continuing to work to ensure market diversification and sustainable development for our islands," Tenorio said.

2016 projection

The UNWTO noted that 2015 marks the 6th consecutive year of above-average growth, with international arrivals increasing by 4 percent or more every year since the post-crisis year of 2010.

The organization projects international tourist arrivals to grow by around the same percentage worldwide in 2016.

Countries are then reminded to promote policies that foster the continued growth of tourism.

"International tourism reached new heights in 2015. The robust performance of the sector is contributing to economic growth and job creation in many parts of the world. It is thus critical for countries to promote policies that foster the continued growth of tourism, including travel facilitation, human resources development and sustainability," UNWTO secretary-general Taleb Rifai said.

OAG

From Page 3

would unbalance the budget.

Lochabay provided the court an update on the same issues in two other identical cases handled by Wiseman.

Lochabay said Wiseman rejected plaintiffs' arguments that the 100-percent reprogramming authority granted the governor under the current budget must be used to satisfy outstanding judgments.

He said Wiseman further rejected plaintiffs' alternative argument that CNMI courts have inherent powers, pursuant to the Constitution, to compel the Legislature to satisfy the judgments.

Lochabay said Wiseman's order does not address plaintiffs' arguments that the budget is unbalanced and unconstitutional because it does not make appropriations to fully pay the government's judgment debt.

Lochabay said the government believes that Wiseman got it right, and urges Camacho to apply the same or similar reasoning in his analysis.

Cost of shipping waste from Tinian not finalized yet

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

No exact figures on shipping waste were given yet to stakeholders as they met for a preliminary update on the military's feasibility study on transferring Tinian's waste to the Marpi Landfill in Saipan last Tuesday.

Various agencies met at the office of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to discuss the interim solution as Tinian's open dumpsite that sits at Alter City Group's property is set to close in a year's time.

No exact figures on how much the shipping of waste would cost, however, rough estimates of equipment costs and associated operating costs were among the topics discussed.

"We didn't really get down to the specifics about what those exact costs would be," U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific-Defense Policy Review Initiative operations officer Tim Robert said.

Robert said they still need some data that they weren't able to collect prior to the meeting.

"They're still trying to get some information particularly on Alter City Group and the other developers on Tinian. I'm actually very satisfied with the work they've been doing gathering all the information and that is going to give us a better idea as to what is the cost, what it's going to take for us to have our solid waste issues resolved at least for the interim," Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said.

"The military doesn't have a good grasp as far as the amount of construction debris that are going to be…I think there was a good estimate for Alter City but with respect to Titanic Resort, so that's kind of a missing data on how much waste Tinian is going to be producing," BECQ-Division of Environmental Quality acting director Ray Masga said.

A final draft of the study is anticipated to be finished in a couple of months and the stakeholders are set to meet again on April.

"We hope to have a final draft type of report with much more detail on cost estimates as we collect some final data from some of the pieces that we didn't get earlier," Robert said.

Upgrades on the Marpi Landfill were also part of the discussion as its cell one is about to be maximized and upgrades on cell two is needed such as constructing a burm to prevent leachate from going into the unlined cell three.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman noted that the funding for that project is also needed to be determined.

"Over the next year all of that needs to happen because it is the desire of ACG and Tinian to close the dump in 2017," he added.

While no plans are final yet, the building of the transfer station on Tinian was already permitted.

"As far as the construction of the transfer station, CIP put in all the design plans and working with Hofschneider Engineering," Masga said, "It's a matter of when they will start [building the transfer station]. Whether or not they will finish within this time period, I don't want to speculate on that."

Sharing costs

Asked who is going to shoulder the cost of the shipping, "It's all yet to be determined. I think everybody that's certainly using the landfill, using the barge shipping, transfer stations, everybody's going to pay for it, portions of it," Robert said.

"That's sort of what was implied in the study today based on all the data that they've gathered. They showed that a large percentage of the waste is going to be generated… a large portion of the waste that's going to be generated in Tinian is going to be from the tourists, the resorts. And about a fourth of it is going to come from the population, the municipality. A very small percentage of the solid waste that's going to be generated is going to come from the military, according to the military," Rabauliman said.

He added that the military is targeting to reduce their solid wastes by about 55 percent through recycling and other efforts so that it won't add to those that are going to be shipped off-island.

According to earlier military impact documents, the Marine Corps Forces Pacific's live-fire range project requires some 353 tons of off-island waste disposal for a training period of 20 weeks. They project to support an average population of 1,200 per year. For a period of 45 weeks, they project 794 tons of waste for off-island waste disposal.

More studies are being done on the military's impacts.

Long-term goals

San Nicolas said they are looking at a 10-year timeframe for their interim solution of shipping off waste to operate.

"Of course the long-term goal is to have our own [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act] compliant landfill on Tinian but that's going to be several years down the road," San Nicolas said.

"It's the desire to have landfill [in Tinian] in the future but everybody is recognizing that that is too long into the future to meet the immediate solid waste solution," Robert said.

Judge denies sex offender's motion for immediate release from jail

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday denied the Office of the Public Defender's emergency motion for the immediate release from jail of sex offender Juan C. Taitano.

Camacho said then-Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos' oral pronouncement of the sentence in court is unambiguous and thus it is the correct sentence, rather than the written sentence prepared by the deputy clerk 10 months after the sentencing hearing.

Inos, who is now a CNMI Supreme Court associate justice, sentenced Taitano to 10 years imprisonment and is only eligible for parole after serving the first five years of his sentence.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Taitano, filed last week an emergency motion for the defendant's immediate release from the Department of Corrections.

Meyer argued that since Inos' written sentencing order suspended the second half of Taitano's sentence, the defendant should have been released on March 7, 2015.

The government did not file a written opposition.

At a hearing on Friday, acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds orally opposed the motion, directing the court's attention to the audio record of the sentencing hearing.

Hinds argued that since Inos' oral sentence stated that Taitano is merely eligible for parole after five years, the defendant is not entitled to immediate release.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig appeared as counsel for the defendant at the hearing.

According to court records, Taitano was arrested on March 8, 2010. On Nov. 24, 2010, Taitano pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Inos issued a judgment and commitment order on Nov. 29, 2010. A sentence and commitment order was prepared by the deputy clerk and issued on Dec. 27, 2011, or 10 months after the sentencing hearing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Zoning OKs renovation of fourth building of former garment factory

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has approved the request of a company to renovate the fourth building of a defunct garment factory in Tanapag to complete a $550,000 housing project.

At a public hearing last week, Zoning Board member Bruce Bateman moved to approve Castle Projects (CNMI) LLC's application for a conditional use permit to allow the rehabilitation of the fourth building of the former Top Fashion.

Bateman said on inadequate parking space concerns, the developer has assured that residents at the renovated buildings are going to be bused out.

Board members Joe Ayuyu Jr. and Herman Sablan also voted to approve the application.

Before the board discussed the application, attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Castle Projects, said nothing has changed with the project save for the construction of an additional 32 rooms.

Dotts said the developer is not adding parking spaces because there is a bus service to bring the occupants back and forth to work.

Dotts said the company will stay with the same number of parking spaces that was previously approved by the board.

Zoning Board administrator Therese Ogumoro said the last time the board approved the developer's application was for 56 parking spaces.

After making a computation as to the required number of parking spaces, Ayuyu said it looks like that the variance can be granted by the administrator.

Bateman then moved to approve the application.

At Building B, Castle Projects will renovate the structure for a total of 32 units, including "supervisor units," with communal bathrooms.

Castle Projects first renovated Building D, then C, and just completed A last December.

With a site area of 15,000 square meters along Chalan Pale Arnold, Castle Project's renovation and restoration of the four buildings to create 136 housing units have an estimated budget of $550,000.

One of the three renovated buildings has already been occupied by construction workers for Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s casino project in Garapan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Buenaflor is MCS Teacher of the Year

Mt. Carmel School named Filmah Buenaflor as its Teacher of the Year Tuesday. The 11th grade homeroom teacher began her teaching career at MCS in 2010 and was joined by fellow teacher of the year finalists Rose Reyes and Vir Abueme on stage during the schools teachers appreciation program as a part of Catholic Schools Weeks.

"I did not expect to win," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "This motivates me to do more work to truly live up to the standard of being teacher of the year."

In her sixth year at the island's sole Catholic educational institution, Buenafor is the chairperson of the school's mathematics learning community and the lead coordinator for MCS' junior and senior high speech and debate program, which has seen a number of student gold medalist represent the islands at national tilts.

Even with her success in curriculum and extra curricular activities, she explained that part of the reason she accepted the nomination for the award was to have an educational professional observe her classroom, which is a part of the selection process.

"I wanted to know which areas I should improve and what I need to continue doing," she added.

According to one of her students, junior Jose Castro, Buenaflor provides a fun environment conducive to learning.

"She really loves her students. She is a wonderful teacher and always makes sure we learn."

Tobed Smith, school counselor and longtime administrator, described Buenaflor as a "dedicated and meticulous" teacher.

She added, "I have a lot of respect for her. I have worked in the school system for a long time and…she is one of the teachers I will never forget."

Several other faculty and staff were recognized for their dedication to teaching at the school during the ceremony. Ariadne Snodgrass, Tomoko Shimizu, Francis San Nicolas, and Zita Sablan were recognized for their perfect attendance.

School principal Frances Taimanao and president Galvin Deleon Guerrero expressed their gratitude for the teachers and urged students to continue showing thanks throughout the entire year.

"If you ask any of our teacher why they teach here, they will say its because they love the students," Guerrero said.

A weeklong celebration

Tuesday's celebration is a part of the weeklong nationwide Catholic schools celebration, which kicked off with a community mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral and with community service activities. MCS celebrated "Catholic Schools in our Vocations" with a Eucharistic Celebration followed by a vocations talk and other activities honoring vocations.

On Thursday, students shifted their focus to "Catholic Schools in our Nation" to honor the many ways that volunteer groups have contributed.

Tomorrow the school will celebrate its students with a roadside waving in the morning and filed activities and demonstrations. MCS will host its traditional Family Night tomorrow at 6pm at the school grounds, featuring dinner, entertainment, and presentation of Parents of the Year.

The celebration culminates on Saturday with the "Night with the Knights" AlumKnight fundraising banquet. The event will feature a music video montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment. The event will also include the announcement of the 2016 AlumKnight of the Year.

Guerrero explained that the celebration of Catholic Schools Week began as an annual event in 1974. ***(Thomas A. Manglona II)***

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Mt. Carmel's Teacher of the Year Filmah Buenaflor, center, poses for a photo with finalists Rose Reyes and Vir Abueme flanked by the school's leadership team.

Man gets 90-day prison term for stabbing son-in-law

Henley A. Kladikm, a 48-year-old man accused of stabbing his son-in-law with a knife and choking him at a residence in Navy Hill, was slapped with a 90-day prison term after entering a guilty plea.

In a written order issued on Friday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Kladikm to three years imprisonment, all suspended except for 90 days, for the offense of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Kladikm was given credit for 90 days of time already served. It means that the defendant will no longer serve more prison term.

The defendant was placed on three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay a $300 probation fee and $100 in court assessment fee.

Kladikm will be subjected to random drug testing at the discretion of the Office of Adult Probation and required to complete any counseling recommended by the Office of Adult Probation.

The defendant signed a plea deal with the government. He pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

As part of the plea agreement, the government moved to dismiss the remaining charge of disturbing the peace. The judge accepted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Oct. 24, 2015, Kladikm repeatedly thrusted a knife in a stabbing manner toward Felix Kileleman while threatening to kill him, ultimately cutting the victim on the hand.

Kileleman told responding police officers that Kladikm broke into his house, threatened to kill him, and grabbed him around the throat. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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5 Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of $0.50 per item over 25.

GCA Eagles soar high in competitions

Like their younger schoolmates in Kinder to 5th grades who won in Primary Grades Forensic Conference PGFC, Grace Christian Academy's middle and senior high school students soared high in different competitions last month. They showed excellence in academics, forensic arts, and theater arts in island-wide competitions.

Grace Christian Academy's 6th through 8th graders soared the highest when they emerged as Academic Challenge Bowl champion this school year. The five-member GCA team was composed of 6th grader Miku Kimura, 7th grader Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, and 8th graders Arvin Dayao, Harry Noh, and Lanz Jabez Victoria. They finished with a total of 980 points. The team members, along with their coach, Susan Pajarillaga, were awarded individual medals, gift certificates, and certificates of recognition.

Organized by the Saipan Southern High School's National Honor Society, the event marked the 14th year the Academic Bee Challenge in middle school was held in the CNMI. Held last Saturday, Jan. 30, at SSHS cafeteria; the competition brought together 70 contenders from 14 schools from both public and private schools in the CNMI. The competition, conceptualized locally for schools in the CNMI, aims to promote better learning among students in different subjects like English, Mathematics, Art, Computers, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, and current events.

Harry Noh also won 4th place among 27 mathletes in the final round of middle school Mathcourt statewide competition which was held also at Saipan Southern High School last Saturday. This makes Noh qualified to be one of the four-member Team CNMI that will compete in the national competition in San Francisco, California in March.

All of the thirteen 6th to 8th graders who competed in the National Junior Speech Debate Association (NJSDA) last Jan. 23 won at least one of the events they joined. All of them are qualified to join the regional competition this month.

For the higher grades, GCA's National Senior Debate Association, four competitors also won first place in most of the events they joined.

In Senior Thespians, Paula Rose Talibong won first place for the second time in solo musical theater event. She is qualified to join the regional competition this Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy middle school NJSDA winners for the Jan. 23 competition pose for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy high school NJSDA winners pose for a group photo.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy are very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in these island-wide competitions. Beth Ann Nunez, GCA principal, is so proud of all the effort of the students and grateful to all the coordinators and coaches.

Below is the list of all the GCA winners in the middle and senior high school island wide competitions in January.

CNMI ACADEMIC CHALLENGE BOWL (6TH-8TH GRADE)

- Miku Kimura, 1st Place
- Joshua Elijah Pajarillaga, 1st Place
- Arvin Dayao, 1st Place
- Hyun In Harry Noh, 1st Place
- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place

Coach: Mrs. Susan Pajarillaga

MATHCOURT STATEWIDE COMPETITION (6TH-8TH GRADE)

- Hyun In Harry Noh, 4th Place, member of the CNMI Team in the national competition

Mathcourt Coordinator/ Coach: Mrs. Susan Pajarillaga

NJSDA (6TH-8TH GRADE) Lincoln Douglas Debate

- Hyun In Harry Noh, 2nd Place

Extemporaneous Speech A

- Hyun In Noh, 1st Place
- Arvin Dayao, 2nd Place
- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech A

- Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 1st Place

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Harry Noh is a member of the CNMI Mathcourt Team.

- James Alexander Keaton, 3rd Place
- Jimin Woo, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech D

- Arvin Dayao, 1st Place
- Christy Lee, 2nd Place
- Tae Yong Kim, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech E

- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place
- Clerisse Dacumos, 4th Place
- Martin Pangilinan, 5th Place

Poetry Reading Masters B

- Alice Kim, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters C

- Christy Lee, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters D

- Tae Yong Kim, 1st Place
- Prose Reading Masters B
- Christy Lee, 3rd Place
- Jimin Woo, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters C

- Kaydie Claude, 3rd Place
- Prose Reading Masters D
- Joyce Liv Francisco, 4th Place
- Tae Yong Kim, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation B

- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 5th Place
- Kaydie Claude Aquino, 5th Place

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Paula Talibong was the first place winner in the Senior Thespian solo musical theater tilt.

NSDA (9TH-12TH GRADE) Dramatic Interpretation A

- Yujin Lee, 1st Place
- Dramatic Interpretation A
- Anjenette Jewel Cubangbang, 5th Place

Expository Speech

- Minna Ito,1st Place
- Original Oratory B
- Minna Ito,1st Place

Original Oratory C

- Melody Sumin Woo, 4th Place

Poetry Reading Masters A

- Yujin Lee, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters B

- Melody Sumin Woo,1st Place
- Prose Reading Masters A
- Yujin Lee, 1st Place

Prose Reading Masters B

- Minna Ito, 1st Place

NJSDA/NSDA Coach/Coordinator: Miss Grace Duran

SENIOR THESPIANS (9TH-12THGRADE) Solo Musical Theater

- Paula Rose Talibong, 1st Place

Competition Registrar: Mrs. Esther Manzano

Competition Judges: Pastor Daniel Dilse, Mrs. Miriam Dilse, Miss Laila Portuguez ***(PR)***

DPL warns against quarry sale of coral to gov't agencies

The Department of Public Lands has reminded commercial quarry operators against selling coral aggregates to government agencies.

In a letter to JG Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc. on Jan. 19, then DPL secretary Pete A. Tenorio reminded the company of this obligation, after referring to a news report that said that quarry operators were selling coral aggregates to the Saipan Mayor's Office for road repair and secondary roads.

Tenorio cited their permit with the Rock Quarry, under a "public benefits" section, which stated that CNMI government would be "exempted from paying any charges for quarry materials extracted" by their company; and that the company would be exempted from paying royalty fees for quarry materials supplied to the government, among others.

"JG Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc., shall refrain assessing any charges of coral materials to CNMI government agencies that will be used for public services," Tenorio, who is now policy advisor to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, wrote.

The quarry permit also states that it is the company's responsibility to keep detailed records of any and quarry materials to the government; and that this report would be submitted as a separate report from the royalty report to be submitted by the company. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Applications for 2016 LibDay Royal Court candidates out

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Committee is inviting interested young ladies from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands to join this year's Royal Court for the Fourth of July celebration.

Application period began last week, Jan. 27, and the deadline will be on March 12, Saturday. Application forms can either be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office or email ldccnmi@gmail.com.

Rose Ada, a member of Liberation Day partner Skywalker Communications Group, is in charge of the overall activities for the CNMI Royal Court. The contest, mostly for fundraising purposes, is open to single ladies from 18 to 25 years old.

A separate ceremony will be held at the Saipan Mayor's Office to introduce the candidates on March 14, which will also mark the start of the fundraising activities for all the Liberation Day Queen aspirants.

Last year's Royal Court Princesses Mary Jane Anon, Stephanie Camacho, and Ashley Tabilisma said in unison that it was a memorable experience just by joining and getting involved in a lot of community work. They are encouraging their friends to also join.

Hocog said they had lined up several events for the candidates leading to the coronation night. "There will be training for the girls and they will have more community involvement. We also plan to enhance their skills and make it a memorable experience to all."

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said they are asking for the public's support to make this year's celebration successful and memorable.

"It is still a long way to go. So we're inviting all ladies out there to join if you want to help the community and have a meaningful experience that you will surely cherish," Hofschneider added.

The counting of funds raised begins on Monday, June 27, at 5pm at the Saipan Mayor's Office. The coronation will be on July 1 with the venue to be announced at a latter time.

Last year, Zolenska Yaroitemal became the first candidate from the Northern Islands to be crowned the Liberation Day Queen.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OVR counselors available at Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be participating as an exhibitor at the DYS 12th Annual Parent Leadership Development Workshop at Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School from 7:30am to11:30am. Counselors will be doing intake and scheduling of appointments if necessary.

If you or anyone you know has a disability, wants to work or is working, and is interested in receiving VR services, please come to the Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School.

For more information, please contact 322-6537/8, 322-6449 or email nmidir@ovrgov.net. *(PR)*

As Teo Santa Lourdes Novena and Fiesta this Friday

The As Teo community is happy to announce the annual Santa Lourdes Novena and Fiesta for 2016. The novena will begin on Friday, Feb. 5, 2016. The novena from Feb. 5 to Feb. 12 will be at 5pm at the Santa Lourdes Shrine in As Teo. On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, Santa Lourdes Fiesta day, the rosary and novena will start at 2pm, and the Mass will be at 3pm, followed by procession after Mass. *(PR)*

Family grief support meeting today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Feb. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. *(PR)*

Regional Language Arts Conference Feb. 19-20

The University of Guam's 28th Annual Regional Language Arts Conference will be held at the Pacific Star Hotel on Friday, Feb. 19, from 4pm to 6pm, and on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8am to 4pm.

Register online at http://www.uog.edu/CLASS-LAC.

Call Kathleen Duenas or Velma Camacho at 735-2725 for more information. *(PR)*

UOG looking for vendors of 2016 Charter Day

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam is looking for vendors who are interested in sponsorship, selling products, and soliciting information throughout the Charter Day 2016 event. Vendor slots are open to profit, non-profit, government, and others. Charter Day is on March 8, 2016 and begins at 8am. This year's theme is "Triton Spirit: One University, Many Voices."

If you would like more information about this event, please contact Samantha Maria Fernandez David at (671) 735-2222 or e-mail us at uog.sga54@gmail.com. *(PR)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Roxanne Ben. Here's a wish for happiness and many dreams come true, not only on your special day but always, all life through. Happy 12th birthday. We love you! From your family.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Saipan Tribune is inviting qualified candidates to apply for **ACCOUNTANT** position.

Qualifications:

- Associates degree in Finance or Accounting
- At least three years work-related experience in financial accounting with an emphasis on receivables and payroll
- Proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint office
- Knowledge in SAP R3 FICO accounting system is a plus, but not required
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player
- Above average written and oral English communication skills

Interested applicants may submit resume or obtain employment application at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located on 2nd floor of JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00pm, Friday, February 5, 2016.**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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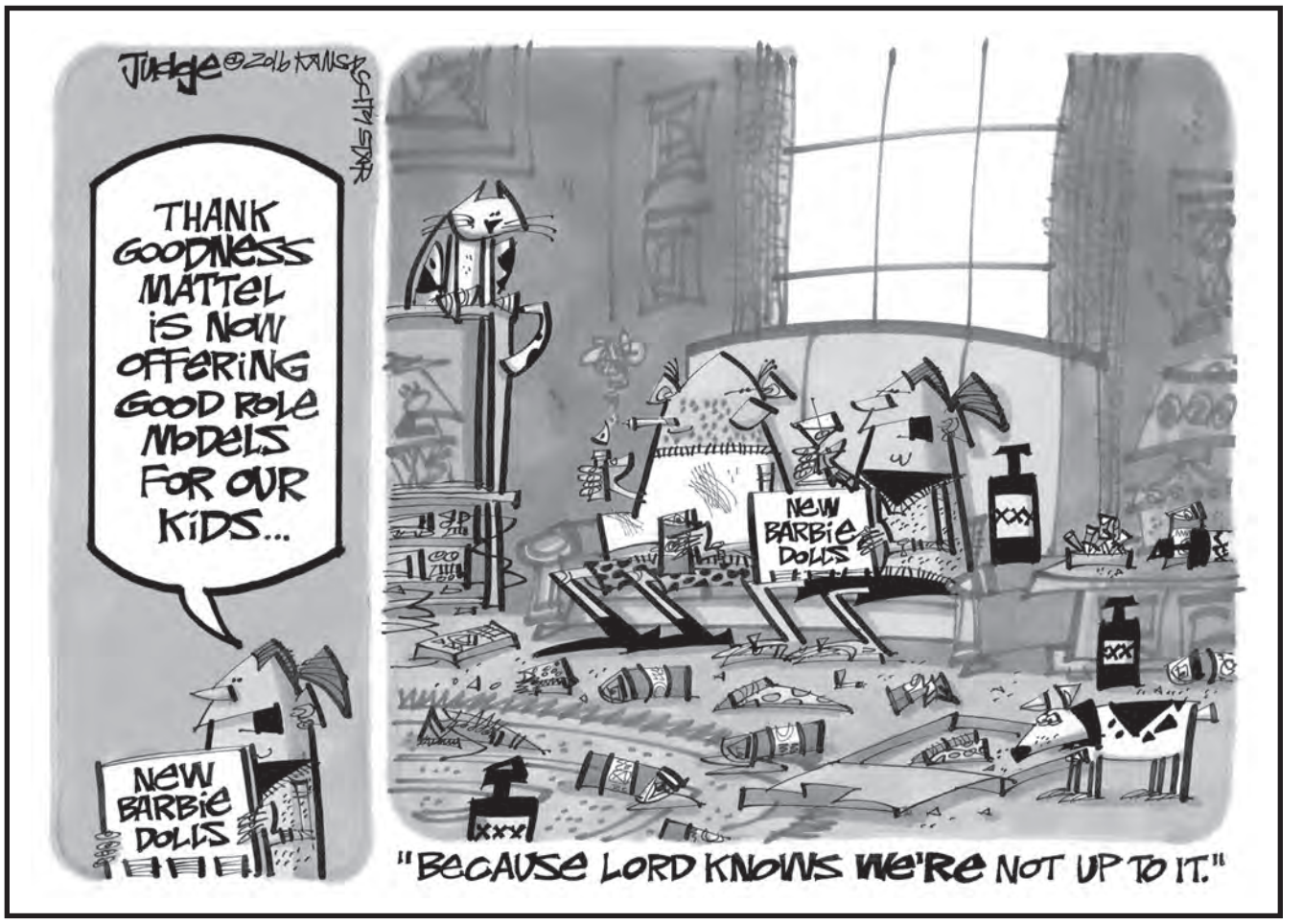
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EDITORIAL

What did the Iowa caucuses prove? Not much

Now that out-of-towners aren't hogging the best tables at the Hamburg Inn in Iowa City, the campaign buses no longer clog downtown Des Moines and the lines of voters at the Hillis Elementary School precinct won't be stretching out the door for at least another four years, it's time to assess the significance of the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses.

In two words? Nothing much.

While the breathless commentariat littered across the cable television landscape Monday night would have you believe that the Iowa results were historic, stunning or even unexpected, that wasn't especially true. Prior to Monday, the most recent polls suggested the Republican presidential race was essentially a threesome, with long-time front-runners Sens. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump battling each other and a surging Sen. Marco Rubio, and lo and behold, they finished 1, 2 and 3. The Democrats have known for months that it was a two-person race for that party's nomination, and so it was with Sen. Bernie Sanders coming up a wee bit short in his quest to top Hillary Clinton.

The takeaway? Perhaps the age-old wisdom that winning Iowa requires a ground war, an army of motivated organizers spread out across the state and a candidate willing to press the flesh, was proven once again. Cruz was just such a candidate, Trump was not, and Rubio has emerged as the most viable alternative to the intemperate duo. Meanwhile, Sanders' rise from obscurity outside his home state of Vermont over the past year has been impressive, but if he can't win in Iowa, what happens when the election heads to the South where he has so far demonstrated little appeal to African-American voters?

History suggests the Iowa caucuses are not so much kingmakers as weed-whackers. Michael Dukakis came in a distant third in 1988 but eventually won the Democratic nomination. The last two GOP winners were Sen. Rick Santorum and Gov. Mike Huckabee. John McCain came in fourth in 2008 but eventually became the nominee. Strike out in Iowa, however, and you can call it a day: As it was this week for Huckabee (how soon they forget) and Maryland's Martin O'Malley, both of whom quietly bowed out after receiving mere trace support.

The campaigns can spin the actual totals as much as they want. Yes, Clinton looked a bit more certain as the Democratic nominee months ago, Rubio has come on strong in recent days and Trump may not be the juggernaut he portrayed himself to be. But, as previous results indicate, finishing within hailing distance of the winner is generally good enough. The next stop, New Hampshire, has only a slightly better predictive record. (Bill Clinton's second-place finish to Sen. Paul Tsongas in 1992 solidified his reputation as the Comeback Kid after he finished with a miserable 2.8 percent of the Iowa vote).

Thus, Iowa appears to be a place not so much to win but to overcome. It favors local candidates and believers in ethanol.

See IOWA on Page 11

Catholic Week at Mt. Carmel

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The Maryknoll fathers were my partners when I did Human Development Training Schools in South America. The base communidad was an example of participatory decision-making at the community level. I always appreciated my Catholic colleagues for being practical and earthy, not the least of whom was my Carmelite nun sister in Venezuela.

Mt. Carmel Cathedral is such an imposing fixture in CK by the Sugar Dock that it is a directional marker for even those who have no strain of catholic faith in their blood stream. Catholic Week 2016 heralds the schools as "communities of faith, knowledge, and service." Another term for the whole shebang is "vocation." One decides with one's whole being is about one thing, the religious vow of chastity, before it deteriorated into sexual abstinence. To be chaste is to be about one thing, be "vocated" in the legacy of faith, excellence, and success.

When Pope Francis of Argentina the Papal Encyclical, Laudato Si, catholic faith, knowledge, and service went into contemporary global climate change, on climate warming that preoccupied the Summit of Nations (COP21) in Paris not too long ago. It takes some doing to plod through the morass of imagery from the Patristic period to contemporary process theology of Vatican thought, but that is the strength of Rome, the ability to retell the "vocational" story in a formal and informal setting like Catholic Week.

I am only half a Catholic by virtue of my mother and her relations used to finger their Rosary beads since Spain introduced the practice, though mother married a Methodist cleric so she joined the reform movement, though as the saying goes, "scratch a Pinoy Prosti (short for Protestant, with no apologies for its intentional nickname use by both who think it is in reference of a denigrated career, and those who take it to affirm its gracious wonder) and you get a progressive Catholic."

The Catholics know their symbols exemplified in Mt. Carmel's celebration, starting the week with the Eucharist when on takes upon one's self, body and soul, the Christ-role and function into human history. Then the whole gamut of Christianity translates into the stance of gratitude for life, l'achaim to the Jews, of self and society, community and history, grounded not in hairy-fairy abstractions but in the flesh and bones of those who serve the school, faculty and staff. Students write appreciation cards and letters.

Not shying away from the authoritative witness of scriptures, a Jeopardy Bible Game is designed (Wednesday), and dialogical to current governance, a Government Challenge Bowl (Thursday) for the middle and high school grades.

The students' expenditure, personal and corporate, in fun and gaiety comes Friday at a school Field Day of grades 1 to 12, capped by the selection of Parents of the Year in a Family Night. All these in the open to invite non-Catholics to join at the cafeteria and the courtyard, the venue for all the activities.

Save the Alums who get their AlumKnight Dinner at a resort hotel, but then, they have deeper pockets and badges of honor from elsewhere to display.

It is not my intent to do PR for the Catholic Church and its institutions. They sometimes find me at odds with what I consider as cumbersome practices when simplicity can suffice. Of course, not usually regarded as a guardian of simplicity, I have not much eave to hang under.

Still, the Dominican monk Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral 500 years ago that triggered what is now referred to as the Protestant Reformation. A half a millennium later, the Vatican is finally coming around to recognize its vitality and joining in the celebration.

Pope Francis has opened the door very wide open for dialogue, reconciliation, and even just *vive le difference*. And not just within Christendom. Progressive forces from other traditions, of the Hindus and the Buddhists, Seculars and Marxists, are joining into the common fray on how to handle the reality of too much atmospheric carbon monoxide to the detriment of climate and our daily living. A resident of Dong Bei northeast China in addition to Saipan and Honolulu, I am clear of how devastating a hovering cloud of pollution is on the health of a people.

Mt. Carmel is a place organized like display rooms and the students proudly wearing white-and-blue uniforms. Other schools on island, particularly those with religious affiliation, sometimes carry it too far with the bow tie and the necktie as part of the attire. But the intent is to show order, demonstrate intentionality in a common aspect as clothing.

The Vatican is used to playing central leadership roles, one time with characteristic European arrogance, but with a "third world" Pope in the Basilica, the leadership style is facilitative in mode and human services in direction. I am only too glad to identify with the Catholic half of my upbringing. Stop by MC (check with the office first when you come) this week.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ginagau Estudiu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Mamaisen i Senadot as Terry Santos gi USEPA para uma-eksamina i hanom yan odda` iya Luta kau guaha haf` na fina` binenu ni muna` fan kakanset lamegai na tautau-ta.

Ha choneg sineyu` este na asuntu pot guaha siha keha ginen i tautau na ma-umenta kausan kanset tilipas yan estomagu gi halom tautau-ta siha.

I asuntu seriosu ya debi man-ma`gas hospitat gi CHC uma-atetuye muna` marikonose finaisen Senadot Santos. `An propiu, debi u famaisen i CHC ayudun depattamenton hinemlu` giya Washington, D.C. kontodu sentron chetnot giya Atlanta yan US Environmental Protection Agecy. Depattamenton Interior mauleg lokue` na u fan ayuda, prontu.

Debi umarikonose parehu odda` yan hanom para umana` klaru kau mangai binenu tat kumu amot peste siha ni mana` fansesetbe gi fina` fangualu`an. "Linala` yan hinemlu` i tautau mina` ma-mamaisenyu` ayudu", segun as Señadot Santos. "Taya` kampu para ta chansa ha`anen tautau-ta gi este na asuntu".

Ilegña lokue` si Senadot Santos na `an mana` guaha estudiu ya klaru i asuntu gi katkuet sineda` debi u guaha programan edukasion publiku gi mas man-impottante na asuntun hinemlo` siha pot para uma-alibia i chetnot siha.

"Mampos estotbu i sige mas ma-umentan chetnot daibites, kanset yan korason gi halom natibu ya mauleg na uma-ina lokue` manu `nai gaige hale` este siha na chetnot", segun as Senadot Santos. "Este siha na chetnot gaige gi tautau-ta siha gi enteru iya Marianas".

Hana` ma`aggemyu` i pot primet biahe guaha chumoneg para umahusga este yan otru siha seriosu na chetnot ni umaminanasa tautau-ta siha. Deste ma-umentan todu klasen kanset, daibites, matai reñihion, yan korason i primera pipinu` na chetnot siha gi halom natibu.

Silensiu I Tanu`

Gi fina` konbetsasion matuka haf` na mampos silensiu i hegsu` I Deni` na tiempu. I asuntu layeye pot guaha tinilaika siha gi membron mafanana`an "cabinet" `sino tautau gobietnu. Estague` na grupu timunerun i nuebu na administrasion.

Ha birague` tatte i kuestion: Kau guaha mohon dañkulu na pinetsige para uma-adelanta linala` i tautau siha gi señgsoñg? Gai sustansia i kuestion piot sa` esta kinse (15) años ya i sueddu kulan masimientu `nai taya` hatsada esta pa`gu. Mietras tantos sige ha mañgahulu` presiun nesessidat siha. I sueddu tai adelantu pot kinse años na tiempu.

Makat na asuntu gi halom mattirun mampos bahu na kinalamten ekonomia. I empleau siha dudayu` kau umali`e hatsada para ta`lu `nos kuantos años na tiempu. Mas u didog taya` salape` gi monedan familia siha. Estague` primera problema hafafana` este na administrasion. Mauleg na asuntu madiskute gi lamasan sena.

Tiempon Añglu` (Maipe)

I kliman El Niño esta hatutuhon tiempon maipe yan añglu`. Mas menos siempre hanom gi tipu` publiku siha. Sin ditension siempre u guaha oran hanom gi halom este na kondision.

I lugat siha `nai potput i karisu mauleg u guaha inadahe pot no u kimason. Talili`e ha` na mampos dañkulu este na kimason ya makat mapunu`.

Makat para i tautau i ma-oran hanom lau kase ennau solu remediuña gi este na tiempu. Puede ti gef`anaku` este na matklima. Atan ya in`fan manlupog kontiempu para usun familia.

Este na tiempu ma`u`usa ni lancheru siha para umana` gasgas i gualu` gi preparasion para i finatton primet agua de Abrit. Dudayu` kau regulatmente u fattu tutuhon uchan gi Abrit. Ilelegña sentrun klima giya Guam na kase Agustu `nai u poduñg i primet agua.

Man-ñahlalañg: Gi halom tenda guaha difirientes klasen kastuma (customers). Gaige si Silensiu, Lepblu, Katkuleta yan Bulacheru. I primet mamahan pot kes. Ha chule` kes todu nesessidatña, ha apase ya humuyuñg yan magof fasuña.

Si Lepblu ha dagau todu nesessidatña halom gi karetiya. Dispues ha lagnos lepbloña papet food stamps ya ha apase. Todu i tres karetiya hana` bula!

Si Señora Katkuleta sige ha yemi` batunes makinaña (calculator) para u li`e kau linañgag chinile`ña fektus ni salape` gi halom balagbagña. Ha diñgu i tenda mientras ha konsidedera kau ha chule` kabales haf` gaige gi listaña.

Si Bulacheru mamahan sitbesa yan lateria para chesa. Ma`pos para i kanton tasi ya ha uñgag-gue`. Inipos ha lotge-gue` na ni para usugon karetaña ti siña. Pues maigo` gi hilu` lamasa estake kayao ñaihon bulachuña gi kase `las dos gi chatanmag.

■■■

Sige malulog un` nuebu na polisia pot che`chu` lai. Ha sañgan dispues na taya` mañauña. Gi oran `las tres gi chatanmag, masugon halom gi simienteyu i karetan polisia. Humuyuñg i dos sarentu malag Kentucky Fried Chicken. `Nai mañiente i prohimu ha` li`e` manadan kilu`us gi oriyaña. Gi halom dos segundu estaba `sta tumotohhge gi kanton chalan gi menan Gima Yuus Chalan Kanoa. Dios mihu!

IOWA

From Page 10

Say what you will about 2016 being the year of the outsider, politics is rarely so simple that it comes down to one type of voter, one issue or one region of the country, let alone one state. This is February. The first delegates have just been selected, and although the election already seems to have been going on for years, the primary season has just begun.

One more word about O'Malley. As much as his candidacy never took flight — unless serving as a late night TV host's punch line counts — even his critics acknowledge he can leave the battlefield with his head held high. Issue by issue, he tapped his party's zeitgeist as well as anyone, and his analysis of the race — that Democratic primary voters would be receptive to someone running to Clinton's left — was entirely correct. It just wasn't him. Even Marylanders who elected him to statewide office by big margins showed little interest in his presidential bid. It's an intriguing contrast to that other Maryland-connected candidate, Dr. Ben Carson, whose appeal sparked broad support early but faded the more Republican voters heard him muddle through the issues. That the former Johns Hopkins pediatric surgeon has opted for trips to Florida, D.C. and North Carolina rather than to spend the full week campaigning in New Hampshire suggests he will be joining O'Malley on the sidelines soon enough.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AG double speak

It seems that the CNMI electorate is being drifted down river without a paddle once again. Our AG referenced the CNMI Constitution as his position when advising the governor of the appointment of the person who ranked third in the last senatorial election from the election district where the vacancy existed. In this case, the AG steadfastly urged that he is not required to issue an opinion because the CNMI Constitution makes it clear who and when the appointment of the person should take effect and lasting until the end of the term of the person which vacated such elected office. Here the AG is saying that because the remaining term of office is less than one year, the appointment is not subject to special election. Thus, for as long as the majority of the time term served by the incumbent elected official is more than three years, it meets the constitutional test and standards.

In the case of the forfeiture of office of the Governor Office's, where majority of the term of office not served by the late governor is greater than year but less than three years, the CNMI Constitution does not apply. It is also the AG's position that nothing applies of Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution except the first sentence. The acting governor or lieutenant governor who is temporarily performing the governor office is not subject to the full test and standard established by the CNMI Constitution concerning time term of office served, or, time term of office not served. It seems that the elected AG engages arbitrarily consistent opinion on this, and the electorates should just give up and dismiss the matter with a blind eye. Or, does it matter that we question the elected AG to produce what theory he applied and pegged stereotype he hooked on that handcuffed the truth to this? Three years of time term of office not served is a lot of time for the CNMI people to endure without a legitimate elected Governor. One year remaining in the term of office of the governor office is tolerable and efficiency is served under that condition.

The elected AG failed to consistently apply the constitutional test and standard on our most recent case involving the election of governor and appointment of a person to fill the remaining term of office of a person elevated to the lieutenant governor office. Sad that our elected AG finds it appropriate to apply what is constitutional to one, and erroneously opined on another vacancy as special situation where the meeting of constitutional test and standards may apply. What is very obvious here is the windfall that one received with such error in advise and judgment by the elected AG. In one case, the person who expected an expiry time term of office until 2017 ended being preserved to term office until 2019 as the non-elected person to the lieutenant governor office. On the other case, a person who just covered and served only one year of actual service to the CNMI people as a lieutenant governor would have enormous windfall for a time term of three years in office for which he was not elected as the legitimate governor for the CNMI people.

Why is the third sentence of Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution so brutal and fearful? Does it matter that an "acting governor" or "lieutenant governor" who assumes office when more than a year remains in the term may serve only until a governor or lieutenant governor is chosen in a special election provided by law? For as long as the OAG and elected AG are not explaining this part of the CNMI Constitution as to its applicability on the forfeiture of office caused by the death of our late governor, the CNMI Constitution is being violated. There ought to be a greater than good reason that makes this important aspect of our constitutional desires excusable by someone or no one.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

Indigenous people need help with foreclosed homes

I'm writing this letter to our elected officials concerning some government agencies to revisit its laws and regulations pertaining to the rights of the indigenous people. A good example: MPLT. A lot of indigenous people's houses are being foreclosed to various reasons. It is so sad to hear this matter. It's an alarming news because it sounds like MPLT is a money-making agency and it's not. The board is monopolizing politically each case that comes on their board meeting. The indigenous people are quiet and no one is challenging their decision on each matter. The people should wake up and stand up for their rights based on the constitution. The attorney general is elected to see all this matter that is affecting the livelihood of the indigenous people of this great Commonwealth. The attorney general should have some sort of auditing on its foreclosed house owned by the local people. Mr. Governor, I am pleading to you to please help us since you stated on your inaugural message, to be open and be of help. The indigenous people are waiting for the sitting elected official for his help on this matter. Remember the elections are not far away again. Enough about helping Best Sunshine or other businesses. Please help protect your indigenous people on their rights because a lot of the local people cannot afford lawyers. And a lot of this crooked lawyers that are probably rejects from the mainland are just here to fill up their pockets by siphoning the local people and then leave the island for good. A very good example is Mr. Jorgensen. I ask the indigenous practicing lawyers to please help by sharing some of your thoughts as lawyers to the people. The Lord said help your neighbors and your brothers and sisters…I remember the old Chamorro saying from the *man'amko…Munga munapiniti sa yangin tariamo, mas addit asta I finataimo*. In line with this, the only thing coming with us when we die is our sins, nothing else.

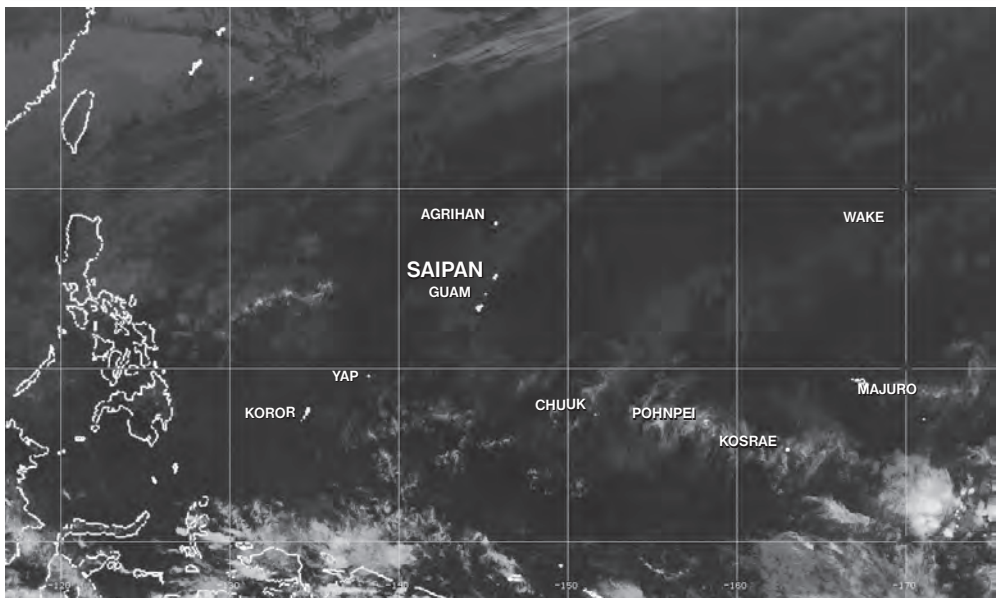
Jonathan Villagomez
San Antonio

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast to east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N148E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A trade-wind disturbance northwest of yap is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 12N and 15N from 130E to 137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 2N130E to 2N146E. A surface trough curves northeast over the Marianas from 10N147E to 20N151E. Widely-scattered showers are seen near the trough within 100 miles of a line from 10N147E to 15N145E to 18N149E. Cloudiness and widely-scattered trade-wind showers are seen near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 4N and 8N from 148E to 168E and within 100 miles of a line from 8N154E to 14N159E to 17N172E. A trade-wind disturbance near the date line is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near and east of Tarawa south of a line from 5N171E to 6N180. Low-level convergence is generating cloudiness and patchy showers north of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 21N164E to 24N172E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲77	▼69
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼20
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼54
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲65	▼43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼70
New York	Rain	▲61	▼50
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼36
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼48
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼28
Rome	Sunny	▲56	▼37
Salem	Rain	▲47	▼44
San Francisco	Showers	▲56	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼20
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲67	▼48

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:32 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	4:17 AM	4:01 PM
Sunday	5:11 AM	4:59 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	5:57 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Korea Marianas Tourism Council formed

To strengthen its valuable partnership with Korea travel partners, the Marianas Visitors Authority has appointed a Korea Marianas Tourism Council comprised of CEOs and presidents of top Korean travel agencies and Asiana Airlines.

The representatives of the industry advisory group conducted a FAM tour of the Northern Marianas from Jan. 14 to 17, 2016. The appointments were made at an official ceremony at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Jan. 15, 2016.

"The Korea Marianas Tourism Council meetings will be a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and provide suggestions to develop the Korean travel market for the NMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We're pleased to have the partnership of each of the new appointees, and thank them for accepting this appointment."

KMTC members are:

■ Mr. Moo-Seung Yang, CEO of Tour 2000 (Chairman of KATA, Korea Association of Travel Agents)

■ Mr. Ok-min Han, CEO of Mode Tour

■ Mr. Jae-Chan Leigh, Vice Chairman of Sejoong Travel

■ Mr. Sangho Lee, CEO of Very Good Tour

■ Mr. Jin Seok Lee, President of Naeil Tour

■ Mr. Min-Soo Kwak, Executive Managing Director of Hana Tour

■ Mr. Myeong-young Moon, Executive Vice President, Asiana Airlines

Following the ceremony, the MVA and the committee discussed ideas for further development of NMI tourism.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Deputy managing director Judy Torres of the Mariana Visitors Authority, sixth from right, appointed members of the Korea Marianas Tourism Council on Jan. 15, 2016, on Saipan. The council is comprised of presidents and CEOs of top travel agencies to the CNMI and Asiana Airlines.

"One of the biggest concerns raised is the long lines at immigration at the Saipan International Airport," said Tenorio. "KMTC members expressed that this initial negative experience upon arrival leaves a bad first impression and may also affect the number of repeat visitors."

The long lines may also serve as a disincentive for airlines to increase the size of the planes flying to Saipan, the group said.

"On a positive note, the members did express interest in sending more visitors to Tinian and Rota," said Tenorio. "To do so, the improvement of inter-island transportation to or between islands is a must. That would include regular and reliable air service between islands, and perhaps also ferry service between Saipan and Tinian, a size upgrade of current planes, and the upgrade of airports."

KMTC members also suggested new hotel development on Rota so more visitors can enjoy the island's pristine natural environment and local festivals. ***(PR)***

Shop Guam for Valentine's Day

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Visitors Bureau would like to remind residents to Shop Guam for Valentine's Day. While planning for that perfect Valentine's Day experience, the Shop Guam mobile app offers great ideas for the perfect gifts, dining locations and entertainment. Choose from more than 200 exclusive Shop Guam offers from more than 100 of Guam's best vendors.

» Take advantage of exclusive Shop Guam deals before festival ends on Feb. 15

"The free Shop Guam mobile app is so easy to download. Within minutes you can be saving at local shops, restaurants and excursions," said GVB Marketing Manager Pilar Laguaña. "This year, we added major luxury brands to the program and have a special Only of Guam category, all this in addition to the great offers from our returning vendors. The Shop Guam app is a fantastic tool that residents and visitors can use to help them plan the perfect Valentine's Day on Guam."

The fourth annual Shop Guam Festival is a world class global campaign aimed at creating an interactive shopping experience for residents and visitors, while highlighting Guam as a modern, fashionable and diverse destination to shop. This year's festival will end on February 15, 2016.

The mobile and printed shopping guides were translated into six different languages that include English, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese. Copies of the printed guide can be picked up at GVB's front desk. Shoppers can also look out for the Shop Guam 2015 signage prominently displayed by participating vendors.

The app allows users to search by categories and by location on a map, including deals that may be in their immediate vicinity. The enhanced app categories include shopping, food and drinks, optional tours and services, "Only on Guam" offers, and mobile only deals. Users can search for events taking place on island throughout the duration of the festival.

Follow Shop Guam 2015 by searching for its dedicated hashtag #shopguam2015, or follow GVB on Facebook, Instagram (@visitguamusa) and Twitter (@visitguam). The Shop Guam mobile app is available for Android and Apple iOS users in their app stores. ***(PR)***

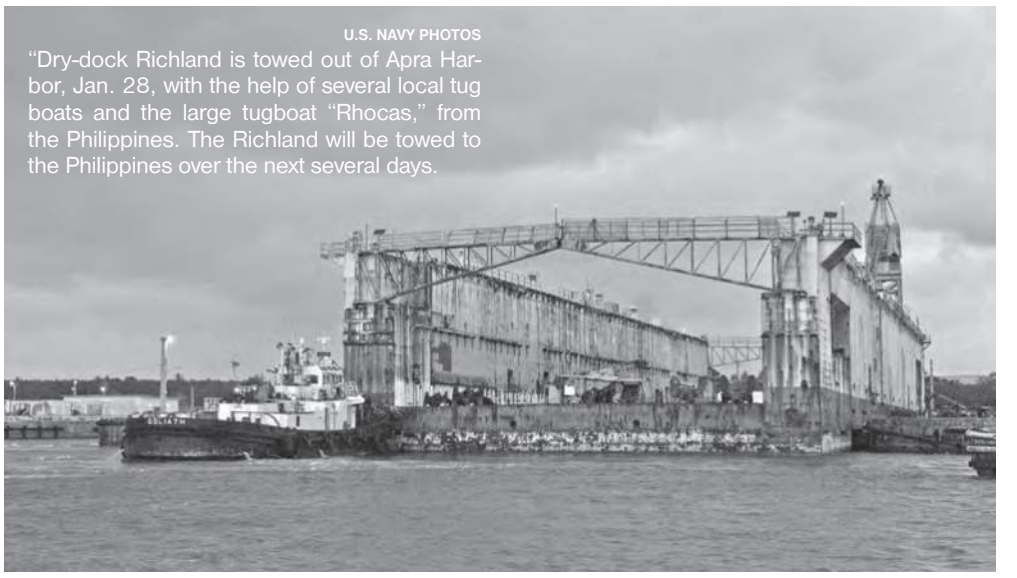
Dry Dock 'Richland' removed from Naval Base Guam after 48 years

APRA HARBOR, Guam—An extensive effort to relocate the floating dry-dock "Richland" (ADFM-8) from the confines of Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam, entered the final stages around 1pm last Jan. 27, as a multitude of vessels gathered at NBG's inner harbor. The assembly of maritime assets was required to prepare *Richland* for an open ocean tow from Guam.

Richland, a 622-feet long, 124-feet wide and 57-feet high dry dock owned by Guam Shipyard (has been located in Apra Harbor since 1968. "I've been working on this dry dock [Richland] since I was 18 – in the 1970s and '80s" said Paul Yatar, a crane operator with GSY. "I worked on her while she was an active dry dock, but it has reached its lifecycle, and it's a good thing to see it go after all this time."

On Jan 28, after all inspections and checks of seaworthiness were complete, the 212-foot, 467-ton tug *Rhocas* got underway from NBG with the *Richland* under tow. *Rhocas* was assisted by four additional civilian tugboats—the *Mangilao*, the *Goliath*, the *Quipuha*, and the *Talofofo*, as she maneuvered away from the wharf and began her transit to the entrance of the harbor and open ocean.

Richland was built in late 1943 by the Chicago Building & Iron Co., Eureka, Calif., and put into U.S. Navy commission in 1944. She was first towed to Pearl Harbor, then to Eniwetok and Ulithi Atolls before making her way to San Pedro Bay in the Philippines for working on U.S. and Allied ships involved in the closing stages of World War II. It was reclassified as Medium Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock (AFDM)-8 in 1946, and renamed *Richland* in 1968 when it came to NBG. ***(PR)***



U.S. NAVY PHOTOS
"Dry-dock Richland is towed out of Apra Harbor, Jan. 28, with the help of several local tug boats and the large tugboat "Rhocas," from the Philippines. The Richland will be towed to the Philippines over the next several days.

ESFDB principal's list, honor roll for 2Q

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja congratulates the following students for making it to the 2nd Quarter Principal's List and Honor Roll.

STAR READER

KINDERGARTEN
■ Ladao, Eianne Miel M.
■ Matondo, Keefe G.

RISING STAR

KINDERGARTEN
■ Cortes, Aaron Kyle
■ Hocog, Edward Q. III
■ Mendiola, Ryder James
■ Orpillo, Ricalene

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1ST GRADE
■ Atalig, Damian "J" H.
■ Tacud, Katrina Shayne

2ND GRADE
■ Maratita, Edward U. III

3RD GRADE
■ Tobongbanua, John Anthony

4TH GRADE
■ Ladao, Éclair Marj M.
■ Mahusay, MJ
■ Manuel, SonJoe S.
■ Reyel, Brylle Angelo P.

5TH GRADE
■ Balgoa, Kaitlyn Amber P.
■ Cantil, Michael Jon T.
■ Clitar, John Kent DlC.

7TH GRADE
■ Clitar, Marvin DlC.

8TH GRADE
■ Lucero, Angelo S.

"A" HONOR

4TH GRADE
■ Hocog, Autumn Pasensia T.

6TH GRADE
■ Atalig, Cyrus Vidal
■ Guiawan, Auston Marvin E.

7TH GRADE
■ Atalig, Jeremy John II

"B" HONOR

1ST GRADE
■ Atalig, Brynn Annalise Sn.
■ Manglona, Cadence

2ND GRADE
■ Hocog, Edward Marco B.
■ Tacud, John Henry

3RD GRADE
■ Hocog, Titus Hugh T.

5TH GRADE
■ Atalig, Landen Drake C.

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Kenmore 3.3cu.ft. Compact Refrigerator $189.95

Kenmore 4.9cu.ft. Electric Range $539.95

Oster 0.9cu.ft. Counter Top Microwave Oven $99.95

Galanz 4 Cup Rice Cooker $29.95

Coleman 48qt Cooler $29.95

Coleman 1/2 Gallon Beverage Coole $6.95

Coleman 9qt Cooler $14.95

PVC 3 Gallon Water Bottle $6.95

Igloo 5 Gallon Seat Top Beverage Cooler $27.95

Assorted Valentines Item Starting $5.95

Disney Toddler Bed Your Choice Hello Kitty or Mickey Mouse $65.95

1200 Series 4 Piece Sheet Set - Full Size $13.95

1200 Series 4 Piece Sheet Set - Queen Size $14.95

1800 Series 3 Piece Sheet Set - Twin Size $11.95

$5.95

Essential Home Bright Pillows

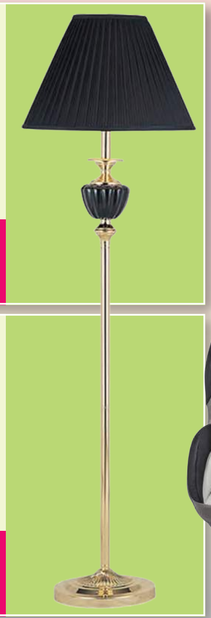
Essential Home Belmont 4 Drawer Dresser $75.95

$99.95 COSCO 5 PIECE TABLE & CHAIR SET

ESSENTIAL HOME ENTERTAINMENT CENTER SILVER AND BLACK WITH WINGS $29.95

UPSTAR 32" LED HDTV $319.95

WANTECH VERDIGRIS 58"H FLOOR LAMP $35.95



Gracious Living Trellis Stackable Low Back Plastic Chairs $10.95

Cosco Big Step Folding Step Stool $39.95

SINGLE METAL CABINET $199.95

BOTAI RECLINER BROWN OR TAN $189.95

ESSENTIAL HOME CRUZ FUTON $149.95

WANTECH FLOOR LAMP 61"H $29.95

Evenflo Sure Ride Convertible Car Seat $147.95

Bebemio Tricycle $49.95

Essential Home Ceramic Table Lamp with Shade $9.95

Kenmore 18" Wall Mount Fan $47.95

LG 5,000 BTU Air Conditioner $149.95

LG 8,000 BTU Air Conditioner $249.95

Craftsman 165 Piece Mechanical Tool Set $119.95

Hefty 15qt Storage Solution $7.95

Plus Start Booster Cable 12 Feet 10 Gauge 150AMP $8.95

Dura Power 6 Outlet Power Strip 3 Feet Cord $5.95

Craftsman LED Work Light 750 Lumens 6 Feet Power Cord $47.95

Weedeater Power Lawn Mower $299.95

Stanley 16" Essentials Tool Box $14.95

$145.95 Winchester Air Rifle 1100SS

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$29.95

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Bordallo housing amendment passes House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo today offered an amendment to H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2015, to fix a misinterpretation of law and give U.S. citizens and nationals a preference over migrants from the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia when receiving Federal housing assistance. Her amendment is similar to section 4 of her recently introduced Compact Impact Relief Act of 2016. The amendment addresses concerns from GHURA that HUD's new interpretation of law could negatively impact Guam residents in favor of Compact migrants when receiving housing assistance.

» Section 4 of Compact Impact Relief Act of 2016 included in broader housing reform bill

The amendment was agreed to by voice vote and included with an amendment offered by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas. H.R. 3700 passed the House by a vote of 427 to 0 and now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

"I continue to support allowing COFA migrants to receive housing assistance, otherwise our housing situation in Guam and other affected jurisdictions would get even worse. However, it was not the intent of Congress to displace our citizens when it extended eligibility to migrants in 2000. Unfortunately limited resources have led many U.S. citizens in Guam to be displaced by COFA migrants who have entered our country as a result of the Compacts of Free Association.

Bordallo

"I am concerned by GHURA's indication that demand for housing assistance far outweighs the resources available, and that the current waitlist for housing assistance could take years to clear. As our local media has recently reported, homeless data show that local residents of Guam make up over forty percent of the homeless on Guam and this is simply unacceptable. Given the change in interpretation by HUD, GHURA is proposing a lottery program to provide housing assistance to all eligible individuals and families. We developed housing assistance programs to provide our citizens with help when they most need it. We cannot let a misinterpretation of the law force these citizens to bet on such help. I thank the gentlelady from Texas, Rep. Jackson-Lee, for her help in passing this amendment, and I look forward to it helping to address local concerns on housing assistance." ***(PR)***

Report fills gap on trade statistics in the Pacific

SUVA, Fiji—Primary industries are the backbone of many Pacific Island countries but there is a great need for more up-to-date information on trade in the region to better understand and grow national economies.

These were the sentiments expressed by Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Navitalai Tuivuniwai, at today's launch of a comprehensive Pacific Islands Trade Report 2010-2014 alongside the European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, H.E. Andrew Jacobs, and Pacific Community Director-General, Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, in Suva, Fiji.

"To date there is very little readily available information on trade statistics in the Pacific region and this report released by the Pacific Community and the European Union goes a long way to help fill that gap," Tuivuniwai said.

"This is a valuable tool as Pacific Island governments, donor agencies and businesses now have access to standardized information on the region's main primary sector export products, the biggest markets for these products and relative trading status of each country," he said.

The report was produced by the EU-funded Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT) project, which is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC).

Drawing on data released in 2015 from the International Trade Centre, the report provides a snapshot of trade in primary sector goods between Pacific Island countries and the rest of the world, with Australia and New Zealand, and between the Pacific Island nations themselves.

It shows that Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji share close to 90 percent of total revenue earned by the Pacific Islands region for the export of primary products worldwide.

In 2014, the total value of primary sector exports from the Pacific amounted to USD 3.97 billion of which Papua New Guinea earned a significant USD 2.2 billion, followed by Solomon Islands (USD 659.8 million) and Fiji (USD 637.2 million).

"I'm convinced that this report will be a useful tool for the Pacific business community which will have access to an easy-to-read overview of regional trade flows and growth trends," Ambassador Jacobs said.

"Obtaining reliable statistical data in the Pacific is a major challenge, and the European Union has been supporting several regional partners, such as the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, Pacific Community and Oceania Customs Organisation to help them to collect and analyse statistical data.

"Accurate trade statistics are essential both for making informed public policy choices and for successful business investment decisions. For development partners as well, trade statistics are important data sources for monitoring and evaluating trade-related assistance projects," Ambassador Jacobs added.

The report shows that within the Pacific region's primary sector, the products showing good potential are fish, wood, cocoa, virgin coconut oil and root crops.

"Agriculture, forestry and fisheries provide an important revenue source for many of our region's farmers, fishers and enterprises. That's why SPC continues to utilise its technical and scientific expertise to strengthen sustainable management of natural resources, enabling Pacific people to benefit from sustainable economic development," Dr Tukuitonga said.

Fiji was the only Pacific Island nation that exported in significant quantities to other Pacific Island countries, accounting for 96 percent of all intra-regional exports.

The 15 Pacific Island countries highlighted in the Pacific Islands Trade 2010-2014 report are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

With support from the European Union over the past four years, the IACT project has been actively assisting 42 enterprises to grow their businesses and create job opportunities across the region.

The Pacific Islands Trade Report 2010-2014 can be found online at: http://www.spc.int/lrd/iact-publications. Hard copies are available by emailing SPC: pubs@spc.int. ***(SPC)***

Danny Jackson recognized for Chamorro preservation efforts

Sen. James V. Espaldon recently recognized Danny H. "Pagat" Jackson through Legislative Resolution No. 263-33 for his tireless efforts to promote, preserve, and sustain the Chamorro culture within the community.

Jackson is currently serving in his second term as I Maga'lahi of I Nasion Chamoru. Jackson has continuously worked with members of I Nasion Chamoru to ensure that all efforts are made to sustain the Chamorro culture by advocating for landless Chamorros.

He has been a staunch supporter of programs administered by the Chamorro Land Trust and the Ancestral Land Commission that have leased lands to Chamorros and have returned ancestral properties back to their rightful heirs.

Espaldon stated during the presentation that efforts by Jackson and other Chamorro advocates are essential in the community as the island continues to experience cultural diversity. "Guam continues to see an influx of people from all corners of the Pacific. And while people come to Guam and settle in making this their new home, we need to continue to ensure that the beauty and richness of the Chamorro people and their culture is not lost. Individuals, like Danny, who are passionate about cultural preservation are key to the survival of the cultural identity of the Chamorros," said Espaldon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Joaquin Rivera, Francisco R. Hernandez, Danny H. Jackson, Josephine C. Jackson, Catherine F. McCollum, and Sen. James V. Espaldon

Jackson was one of many people who also fought to protect I Sengsong Pagat from being included in any plans for the Guam military buildup. The resolution presentation took place at Espaldon's office last Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016. Present for the presentation were Espaldon, Jackson, and Jackson's wife Josephine C. Jackson. Also present were members of I Nasion Chamoru including Joaquin Rivera, Francisco R. Hernandez, and Catherine F. McCollum. ***(PR)***

Temporary power interruption for Capitol Hill

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in a section of Capitol Hill will experience a temporary power interruption this week as linemen strengthen a portion of the transmission and distribution infrastructure along Feeder 4.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, CUC will temporarily interrupt power to sections of Marshall Loop and Majuro Lane while linemen replace two rotten power poles and relocate service droplines. The four-hour project will begin at 9am and power will be restored to the area by 1pm.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Business

Cheap oil buoys consumers, shakes up global governments

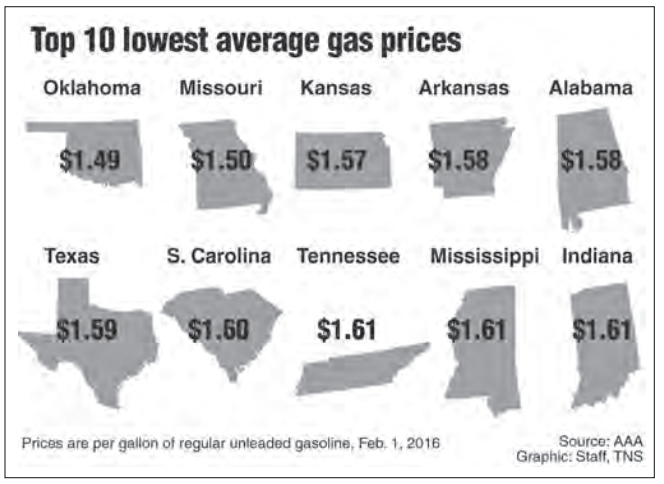
Cheap oil will be sticking around for a while.

That reality is wreaking havoc and causing uncertainty for some governments and businesses, while creating financial windfalls for others. Less expensive crude is delighting consumers in some regions, while leading to widespread job losses elsewhere.

Oil has fallen from $107 to below $30 in the past 19 months. Furious production by the U.S. and OPEC led to an oversupply. Recently, a sluggish global economy has spurred concerns about demand.

A recovery in oil prices depends on when supply and demand can get close to equilibrium. It could be a rocky ride. In a recent research note, Goldman Sachs predicted "the path to a rebalanced market will be protracted and arduous."

The U.S. government forecasts Brent crude, the international benchmark, will average $40 a barrel this year. Bank of America Merrill Lynch is a bit higher, at $46.



NORTH AMERICA

U.S. households have saved hundreds of dollars on gasoline and heating oil. That's money they can spend in other areas of the economy. Businesses such as airlines that burn large amounts of fuel have reaped savings in the billions. But energy company profits have plunged, as have their stocks. Layoffs and spending cuts by oil drillers have offset some of the boost from steady consumer spending. Meanwhile, states like Alaska and North Dakota need to plug big budget gaps. The Energy Department expects a decline in U.S. oil production, but says oil will only average $38 this year.

For new mines in Alberta's oil sands to cover costs, oil needs to be $85 to $95 a barrel, according to IHS Global Insight. Western Canadian Select oil sands crude recently traded around $15. Canadian oil companies have slashed budgets, laid off tens of thousands of workers and cut dividends. A Bank of Canada report says companies see dramatic change for the global industry, with weaker companies restructuring or exiting the oil business, while healthier companies buy distressed assets. Canada's dollar is down 20 percent versus its U.S. counterpart. Prices for imported groceries have risen and Canadians are reconsidering a U.S. vacation.

SIDEBAR Oil industry cutting jobs, investment to offset lower prices

Oil companies are cutting investment, slashing jobs and selling off pipelines and other assets as crude prices plunge.

"It's going to be a very turbulent year for our industry," says BP CEO Bob Dudley.

The latest warnings came from Exxon Mobil, which reported Tuesday that fourth-quarter earnings fell 58 percent in the oil giant's weakest quarter since 2002. The results were even worse at BP, which posted a 91 percent decline in profit.

Those reports follow Chevron Corp.'s first money-losing quarter in more than 15 years and Royal Dutch Shell's warning that its 2015 profit fell sharply.

Even with a big glut of oil and low prices, producers are pumping to earn what they can. Exxon boosted production of oil and natural gas by nearly 5 percent. Oil companies are counting on seasonal demand to pick up some of the slack later this year, but it is anyone's guess how long the current lower crude prices will last.

Crude prices first fell below $30 last month from above $100 in mid-2014. Consumers are benefiting from cheaper gasoline and other fuels, but oil companies and employees are feeling the pain.

"I expect continued layoffs, restructurings, and consolidation among oil and gas companies," said Gianna Bern, an associate professor of finance at the University of Notre Dame. "We are witnessing the perfect storm in this industry." ***(AP)***

Congress: drugmakers planned price hikes to boost profits

By MATTHEW PERRONE and TOM MURPHY
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Two drugmakers have made a practice of buying and then dramatically hiking the prices of low-cost drugs given to patients with life-threatening conditions including heart disease, AIDS and cancer, according to excerpts from thousands of documents released by federal lawmakers.

A congressional review of more than 300,000 pages from Turing Pharmaceuticals and Valeant Pharmaceuticals reveals how executives planned to maximize profits while fending off negative publicity over the price hikes.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Maryland, released the information Tuesday ahead of a hearing Thursday to examine exorbitant price spikes. Cummings has used his position atop the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate several companies that have bought previously low-cost drugs and jacked up their prices many times over.

The Democrat said in a statement that the documents show "that many drug companies are lining their pockets at the expense of some of the most vulnerable families in our nation."

When reached Tuesday, Valeant and Turing said they're committed to ensuring that cost isn't a deterrent for patients.

At the center of the investigation is Turing's former CEO Martin Shkreli, who became the poster child of pharmaceutical-industry greed last fall for hiking the price of a life-saving drug by more than 5,000 percent. That drug, Daraprim, is the only approved medication for a parasitic infection which mainly strikes patients with weakened immune systems, including those with cancer and AIDS. The patent on the drug expired decades ago.

Nation

Clinton wins Iowa, campaigns turn to New Hampshire

NASHUA, N.H. (AP)—Hillary Clinton tried to turn a skin-of-her-teeth victory in Iowa into a bit of momentum for her battered Democratic campaign, and Ted Cruz sought to lock in his spot at the top of the Republican field as the presidential candidates packed up Tuesday and sped to New Hampshire.

The contenders descended on the Granite State—along with scores of volunteers and staff—and quickly scattered for a blitz of campaign rallies and television interviews. Some sought to capitalize on the results of the Iowa caucuses, while others looked to put the best face on poor showings as they settled in for the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary and beyond.

Clinton celebrated her narrow win in the leadoff caucuses and said she expected a tough fight in New Hampshire, noting she'll be campaigning in the "backyard" of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, where he has been running strong for weeks.

AP
Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton holds the phone to take a selfie with an employee at Market Basket Supermarket, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, in Manchester, N.H.

Sanders celebrated his stronger-than-expected showing in Iowa, landing at dawn in Bow and addressing a hardy group of supporters who met him. "We're in this for the long haul," he told reporters as his plane flew through the night to the season's second showdown.

Sexually-transmitted Zika case confirmed in Texas

DALLAS (AP)—Health officials on Tuesday reported that a person in Texas has become infected with the Zika virus through sex in the first case of the illness being transmitted within the United States amid the current outbreak in Latin America.

The unidentified person had not traveled but had sex with a person who had returned from Venezuela and fallen ill with Zika, Dallas County health officials said. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control issued a statement saying lab tests confirmed the non-traveler was infected with Zika.

The virus, which has been linked to birth defects in the Americas, is primarily spread through mosquito bites, but investigators had been exploring the possibility it could be sexually transmitted. There was a report of a Colorado researcher who picked up the virus in Africa and apparently spread it to his wife back home in 2008, and it was found in one man's semen in Tahiti.

"It's very rare, but this is not new," Zachary Thompson, director of the Dallas County Health and Human Services, told WFAA-TV in Dallas. "We always looked at the point that this could be transmitted sexually."

The CDC says it will issue guidance in the coming days on prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus, focusing on the male sexual partners of women who are or may be pregnant. The CDC has already recommended pregnant women postpone trips to more than two dozen countries with Zika outbreaks, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Venezuela. It also said other visitors should use insect repellent and take other precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

In the epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean, the main villain identified so far is called Aedes aegypti—a species of mosquito that spreads other tropical diseases, including chikungunya and dengue fever. It is found in the southern United States, though no mosquito-borne transmission has been reported in the continental United States to date. There have been about 30 cases in the U.S. in the last year, all travelers who brought it into the country.

Hoaxers increasingly going online to threaten schools

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On a spring day at Mount Elden Middle School in Flagstaff, Arizona, the phone rang and a receptionist answered. A computerized female voice was on the line with a disturbing message: "I can see children. I'm going to kill children!"

The school immediately went into lockdown. Police searched the building as teachers tried to keep nervous children calm in their classrooms. Worried parents flooded school phone lines.

In the end, nothing was found.

It was the fourth threatening call in a month at the 10,000-student school system. After an onerous cyber forensics investigation involving the FBI, detectives found their suspect: a 29-year-old New Yorker who authorities say used a Gmail account with a fake name to call in threats and score "points" in an online game.

"It is very difficult to understand," said Barbara Hickman, superintendent of the Flagstaff school system. "It was devastating to my elementary schools. It was frightening."

Security experts, law enforcement authorities and school officials say the episode was part of what appears to be an emerging trend around the nation: hoaxers using proxy servers, virtual private networks and other high-tech identity-disguising tools to anonymously threaten schools online and trigger a huge police response.

In December, Los Angeles, New York City and several other school systems received an email warning of a grisly attack. In late January, districts in Delaware, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and elsewhere received bomb threats phoned in using an electronic voice. No arrests have been made in those cases.

In almost every instance, the threats disrupted the lives of thousands of students. Schools were closed or locked down. Police and search dogs scoured buildings for intruders and bombs before concluding the threats were hoaxes.

Asia

S. Korea warns N. Korea not to launch satellite

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea warned on Wednesday of "searing" consequences if North Korea doesn't abandon plans to launch a long-range rocket that critics call a banned test of ballistic missile technology.

The South's rhetoric about unspecified harsh consequences comes less than a month after the North's defiant fourth nuclear test and as diplomats at the U.N. work on strong new sanctions against Pyongyang.

North Korea on Tuesday informed international organizations of its plans to launch an Earth observation satellite on a rocket between Feb. 8 and 25, and if North Korea's past patterns are any clue, angry warnings by its neighbors and Washington probably won't dissuade a coming launch.

The launch declaration, which is meant to warn civilians, shipping and aircraft in the area about the rocket and falling debris, follows North Korea's disputed claim on Jan. 6 to have tested a hydrogen bomb, the country's fourth nuclear test. A launch would be seen as a snub by North Korea of its only major ally, China, whose representative for Korean affairs landed in Pyongyang for talks on Tuesday.

South Korean and U.S. officials said the launch would threaten regional security and violate U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the country from engaging in any ballistic activities.

"We warn that if North Korea proceeds with a long-range missile launch, the international society will ensure that the North pays searing consequences for it as the launch would constitute a grave threat to the Korean Peninsula, the region and the world," senior South Korean presidential official Cho Tae-yong said in televised remarks.

In Washington, Daniel Russel, the top diplomat for East Asia, said the U.S. was tracking reports of the North's planned launch. He said a launch that uses ballistic missile technology would be another violation of a U.N. ban and strengthens the argument for the international community to impose "real consequences" on North Korea for destabilizing behavior. He called for the imposition of tough additional sanctions.

Airstrikes destroy IS radio station in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. airstrikes have destroyed an Islamic State-operated radio station in a remote part of eastern Afghanistan, officials said Tuesday.

"Voice of the Caliphate" radio was destroyed by two U.S. airstrikes, according to a U.S. military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media on the subject.

Army Col. Mike Lawhorn, spokesman for the U.S.-NATO mission in Afghanistan, said U.S. forces conducted two "counter-terrorism airstrikes" late Monday in Achin district, in the eastern Nangarhar province, without elaborating.

An IS affiliate has emerged in Afghanistan over the past year, with a military presence in districts near the border with Pakistan. The radio station was broadcasting illegally across Nangarhar, calling on fighters to join the group and threatening journalists in the provincial capital, Jalalabad.

Afghan officials had said they believed the broadcasts were coming from mobile facilities that could be moved easily back and forth across the mountainous border.

The spokesman for the Nangarhar governor, Attaullah Khogyani, said the strikes had also killed 21 IS supporters, including five who were working for the radio station.

The station was set up in late 2015, following months of fierce fighting between IS group militants and the Taliban, who also maintain a significant presence in the region. Although IS and the Taliban both want to impose a harsh version of Islamic rule, they are bitterly divided over leadership and strategy, with the Taliban narrowly focused on Afghanistan and IS bent on establishing a worldwide caliphate.

Radio is a powerful medium in Afghanistan, where most people do not have televisions and only 10 percent of the population has access to the Internet. Nearly everyone has access to radio, with around 175 stations operating across the country.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Ship hijackings down in 2015, piracy mostly low-level theft

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A global maritime watchdog said Tuesday that ship hijackings declined in 2015 from a year earlier, while sea piracy incidents increased slightly but consisted mostly of low-level theft. The International Maritime Bureau said in its annual piracy report that 246 piracy incidents were recorded worldwide, one up from 2014. It said pirates hijacked 15 vessels and held 271 hostages, down from 21 ships and 442 hostages in 2014. It attributed the drop in hijackings to a fall in attacks against small fuel tankers around Southeast Asia's coasts, the last of which occurred in August. It praised Malaysian and Indonesian authorities for taking swift action to arrest and prosecute two gangs that hijacked tankers, including the arrest of some alleged masterminds.

Zika virus forces India's Tata Motors to change car's name

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Zika virus has hit India's Tata Motors, which has decided to rebrand a soon-to-be launched hatchback vehicle which was to have been called "Zica," an abbreviation of "Zippy Car." The car is to be shown for the first time on Wednesday at the Auto Expo 2016 on New Delhi's outskirts. Tata Motors said in a statement Tuesday that the car will carry the "Zica" nameplate during the exhibition, but a new name will be announced in a few weeks. It said the company decided to rebrand the car to empathize with the hardships caused by the outbreak of the Zika virus in many countries.

Thai elephant gores Scottish tourist to death on trek

BANGKOK (AP)—A Scottish tourist has been gored to death by an elephant that he and his 16-year-old stepdaughter were riding on the resort island of Samui, Thai authorities said Tuesday. Police Lt. Rotjanart Kiewjan said the animal threw Gareth Crowe and Eilidh Hughes to the ground during a trek on Monday. The elephant then gored Crowe with his tusk and stomped on him. Thai news reports said the elephant became enraged after its trainer, known as a mahout, climbed off to take a picture of the tourists. Police think hot weather may have disturbed the 13-year-old elephant. The mahout, who is from Myanmar, was also gored and Hughes was injured from her fall. Both were hospitalized.

World

Brazil president tries to ease wary nation amid Zika spread

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's president promised a wary nation on Tuesday that no resources would be spared in the fight against Zika, addressing Congress a day after the World Health Organization declared the mosquito-borne virus an international emergency.

A spike in the number of Brazilian babies born with brain defects and abnormally small heads has been linked to their mother's contracting the virus during pregnancy. Several thousand cases of microcephaly have been reported in Brazil since October, although researchers have so far not proven a definitive link to the virus. No vaccine or cure exists for Zika.

"We should all be worried about microcephaly," Brazilian President Dilma Rouseff said, calling on Congress to partner with her in the fight against the virus.

Boys stand on a piece of wood above sewage running below as they play outside their home in Bonito, Pernambuco state, Brazil, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016. AP

Before the Zika virus started grabbing international attention, Brazil was already struggling to prepare for this summer's Olympic Games, set to begin in August in Rio de Janeiro. Constructions projects have started and stopped, and questions have been raised about the safety of athletes after an Associated Press investigation found alarmingly high levels of bacteria and viruses in water bodies where competitions will take place.

Worry over the Zika virus was the main topic Tuesday during an Olympic committee news conference. Instead of updates on venue construction or ticket sales, health officials attempted to ease fears that the virus would wreak havoc.

Libya's political chaos slows response to Islamic State

ROME (AP)—The military strategy for eliminating the Islamic State in Libya appeared on hold Tuesday as nations fighting the extremist group said they could help the North African country re-establish security once its long-awaited new government is established.

But Libya is in political crisis, more than four years after a U.S.-led military effort helped topple dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Neither the U.S. nor anyone else at a 23-nation conference in Rome spoke of a second military intervention.

Although much of the conference focused on anti-Islamic State efforts in Syria and Iraq, the concluding statement of foreign ministers also noted Islamic State's "growing influence" in Libya. And U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry issued his own warning, saying "the last thing in the world you want is a false caliphate with access to billions of dollars of oil revenue." He called for more security training and undefined military support for Libya.

Since 2014, Libya has been split between two rival authorities. A new unity government still doesn't have parliamentary approval. And an Islamic State affiliate is carving out territory in the center of Libya while militants, wearied by coalition air strikes in Iraq and Syria, flock to the new front.

Despite increased alarm, the U.S. and the European and Arab countries only resolved at Tuesday's meeting to "continue to monitor closely developments there, and stand ready to support the Government of National Accord in its efforts to establish peace and security for the Libyan people."

OAS mission chief hopeful Haiti can settle political crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—After three days of meetings, the chief of a regional mission is hopeful but not necessarily confident that Haiti's political crisis can be resolved before the scheduled end of the president's term this weekend.

At outgoing President Michel Martelly's request, the Organization of American States authorized the special mission to Haiti following the indefinite suspension of a runoff election to choose a successor before the Feb. 7 constitutional deadline for him to leave office. Since arriving Sunday, the OAS representatives have met with Martelly and officials of his administration, lawmakers, judges and others.

Ronald Sanders, an Antiguan diplomat who is mission leader and chairman of the 35-nation OAS's permanent council, said he was impressed with the "remarkable intelligence" of the Haitian officials, but he wouldn't go so far as to say he was confident that they will agree on a workable solution in the next few days.

"If I am to believe what people have said to us about their determination to save their country and to take it forward, then I believe there's great hope that they will reach a solution," he said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Sanders said Haitian senators have proposed a plan that would see Martelly step down on schedule Sunday. The presidency would remain vacant for a short term, with a consensus prime minister running the country until a new president could be elected.

"To a man, everybody in that Senate room told us they had reached a single proposal which they were putting to the government," Sanders said.

He said he heard that 10 people were being considered to be the caretaker leader.

But some opposition figures are eager to derail any agreement that involves Martelly.

Environment

A look at investigations into Flint's lead-tainted water

By DAVID EGGERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI is working with a multi-agency team to investigate the lead contamination of Flint's drinking water, the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit said Tuesday.

Flint switched its water source from Detroit's water system to the Flint River in 2014 to save money while under state financial management. The river water was not treated properly and lead from pipes leached into Flint homes.

Flint's public works director, Michigan's top environmental regulator, a state spokesman and a high-ranking federal regulator have resigned in connection with the crisis. Two other state environmental officials have been suspended pending an investigation.

A look at various investigations taking place:

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA announced in November an audit of how Michigan enforces drinking water rules, and plans to identify ways to possibly strengthen state oversight. The Justice Department has confirmed it is helping the EPA, where one high-ranking official has resigned, and said Tuesday that the FBI is working with a multi-agency team investigating the lead contamination. Officials have not said whether criminal or civil charges might follow.

US HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The House Oversight Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing Wednesday on Capitol Hill looking into Flint's water crisis and the EPA's role in administering the Safe Drinking Water Act there.

Witnesses invited include Joel Beauvais, an acting EPA deputy assistant administrator; Miguel Del Toral, a researcher in the EPA's Region 5 Water Division; Keith Creagh, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality interim director; Marc Edwards, professor of environmental and water resources engineering at Virginia Tech; and Darnell Earley, former state-appointed emergency manager of Flint, who has chosen not to testify.

MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has appointed a special counsel to aid his office's investigation into whether laws were broken regarding Flint's lead-tainted water. It is unclear if the probe could result in criminal or civil charges.

Schuette announced the inquiry more than four months after Virginia Tech's Edwards said the Flint River was leaching lead from pipes into people's homes because the water was not treated for corrosion, after declining to investigate earlier. He said new information that came to light around New Year's prompted him to open a probe.

Special counsel Todd Flood has mostly declined to detail which criminal or civil laws could be reviewed for potential violations, though he has cited prohibitions against misconduct by public officials.

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE

An independent panel appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder determined that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was primarily responsible for the water contamination because it failed to require Flint to treat its water for corrosion after switching from Detroit's system to the Flint River. A final report is expected early this year. The task force has recommended that the state ask the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help assess an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Genesee County that some experts suspect is linked to the water. At least 87 cases, including nine deaths, were confirmed during a 17-month period.

MICHIGAN AUDITOR GENERAL

The auditor said in a preliminary report that the DEQ should have required Flint to treat its water to keep lead from leaching from service lines into people's homes but did not purposely mislead federal officials about the lack of corrosion control. State officials interpreted federal rules to mean Flint could make the transition and then test the new water for lead over two six-month intervals to determine potential corrosion treatment. In February 2015, a DEQ water supervisor told the EPA that Flint had a corrosion control program in place. But in April, an EPA official confirmed through another DEQ official that the city was not practicing corrosion treatment, according to emails. The EPA apparently interpreted the word "program" to mean treatment, while the DEQ meant it as testing to determine if corrosion controls would be needed in the future, according to the auditor.

EPA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The EPA's internal watchdog has announced plans to examine the circumstances of, and the agency's response to, the water contamination. The office plans to visit Michigan and the EPA's regional headquarters in Chicago.

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

The commission will hold hearings to explore whether the civil rights of Flint residents were violated during the switch to the Flint River and subsequent contamination. A majority of Flint residents are black. The first hearing could be held this month.

LAWSUITS

A lawsuit filed last week asks a federal judge to force Michigan and the city of Flint to replace all lead pipes in Flint's water system to ensure residents have a safe drinking supply. The complaint says service lines from water mains into homes should be replaced at no cost to customers. The suit seeks an order requiring city and state officials to remedy alleged violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It is at least the fourth lawsuit filed over Flint's lead-tainted water. The others seek financial damages on behalf of residents.

Post-Flint, demand for more EPA water protections may be difficult for some states to swallow

By ED FELKER
MCT

WASHINGTON—The contamination crisis in Flint, Mich., has thrown a harsh national spotlight on the problem of lead in drinking water, especially in poor and minority communities. Yet the issue is hardly new—Washington, D.C., had its own infamous lead scandal in 2004, among other communities that have seen lead spikes.

Now health advocates are calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to quickly toughen the protections that states must require of local water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Among the mandates on the table is the eventual and costly replacement of all lead pipes in drinking water systems, rather than just those shown to be an immediate threat to health.

The EPA has been holding talks since 2010 on long-term revisions to its Lead and Copper Rule, last updated in 2007 after two years of deliberations.

The rule requires states to enforce the law by making sure local water systems take precautions to keep lead out of the drinking water supplies, such as treating water to limit the leaching of lead in pipes, a process known as corrosion control.

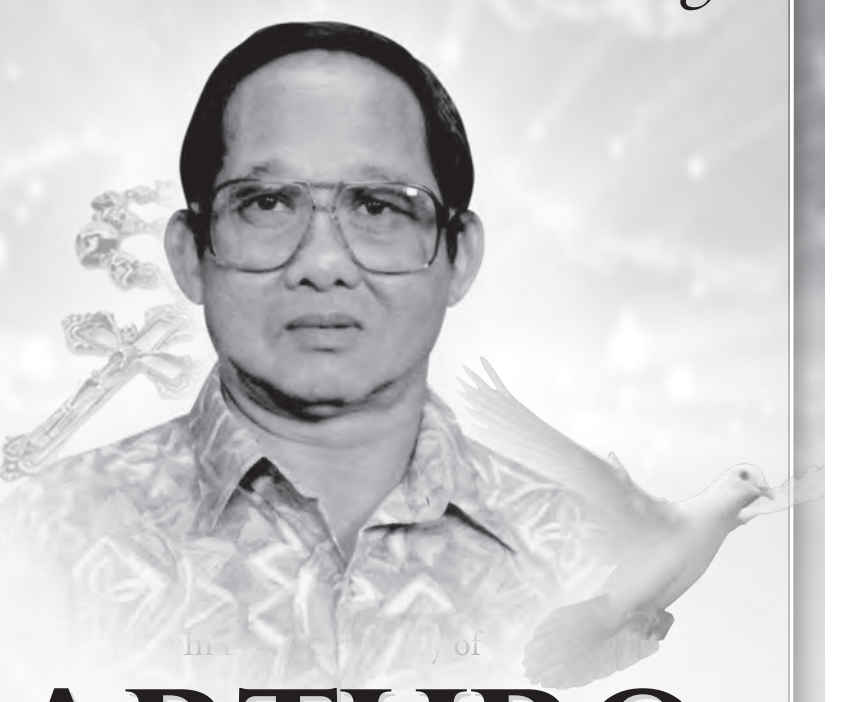
The EPA has said it will propose the revisions in 2017, an action that will take on new importance in light of the exposure of families in Flint to high levels of lead, a strong neurotoxin that can affect child brain development and behavior, and cause illness in adults.

One of those who hopes the problems that surfaced in Flint are addressed in the revisions is Hilliard L. Hampton II. Last year, he ended 16 years as mayor of Inkster, Mich., a small majority African-American suburb about 75 miles south of Flint that has had its own share of financial problems.

Hampton sits on the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, which advises the EPA on implementation of the law. The council in December sent Administrator Gina McCarthy an eight-point set of recommendations to revise the lead rule.

He signed off on the advisory council's recommendations, which came out of a working group that met seven times over 15 months, ending last summer as the Flint crisis was coming to light.

First Year Death Anniversary



†ARTURO
CABALES TRAVILLA
"ART"

We, the family of the late +Art would like to invite our friends and relatives to join us in prayer for our dearly beloved to forever rest in life everlasting.

Daily mass will be offered at San Antonio Church beginning February 1st to February 9th , 2016 at 6:00p.m.

On the final night of mass, February 9th, dinner will be served at Travilla Residence.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much!

From the Family.

Life & Style

Former DA says he believes Bill Cosby can't be prosecuted

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—The former district attorney who declined to arrest Bill Cosby on sex-crime charges a decade ago testified Tuesday that he essentially granted the comedian lifetime immunity from prosecution in the case.

Former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor took the stand in a bid by Cosby's lawyers to get the case against the TV star thrown out long before trial because of what they say is a non-prosecution agreement with Castor.

The current district attorney insists there is no record of any such promise.

Castor admitted the only place the matter was put in writing was in the 2005 press release announcing his decision not to prosecute.

He acknowledged that he didn't draw up a formal immunity agreement filed with a judge because, he said, Cosby was afraid that would make him look bad. Also, Castor said, "It was unnecessary because I concluded there was no way the case would get any better." And he said Cosby's lawyers did not insist on such a document.

The proceedings will resume on Wednesday, when Common Pleas Judge Steven T. O'Neill said he hopes to rule on whether to throw out the case.

Cosby, 78, was arrested and charged in December with drugging and violating former Temple University athletic department employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. He could get up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Actor and comedian Bill Cosby, center, arrives for a court appearance Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, in Norristown, Pa. Cosby was arrested and charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home in January 2004. AP

Castor said Tuesday that he believed Constand's story but that proving it would have been problematic because of serious flaws in the case, including what he called her inconsistencies and continued contact with Cosby. In deciding not to bring charges, he said, he meant to protect Cosby from prosecution "for all time."

And he suggested that Cosby and his then-lawyer understood it that way too, because Cosby later agreed to testify without invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in a lawsuit brought against him by Constand.

"Cosby would've had to have been nuts to say those things if there was any chance he could've been prosecuted," Castor said, referring to the damaging testimony unsealed last summer.

Castor said he hoped—correctly, it turned out—his ruling would prod Cosby to testify in the lawsuit and help Constand win damages. She eventually settled for an undisclosed amount.

"I was hopeful that I had made Ms. Constand a millionaire," the former DA said.

He said he and Cosby's then-attorney, Walter Phillips, did not have an actual agreement that Cosby would testify in exchange for not being prosecuted. Phillips has since died.

Kevin Steele, the newly elected DA who is pursuing the case, has said Cosby would need an immunity agreement in writing to get the case thrown out. He has said he has no evidence one exists.

Prosecutors on Tuesday pressed Castor on numerous, seemingly inconsistent statements he made over the years on whether Cosby could still face charges. Castor sparred with prosecutors, parsing the language in his press release and in various emails sent to his successor.

He said he was referring in some passages to bringing charges against Cosby in connection with other women and other crimes—but not in connection with the Constand encounter in January 2004.

While Castor was called as witness by Cosby's side, the former DA said he is rooting for the prosecution.

"I'm not on your team here," Castor told Cosby lawyer Brian McMonagle. "I want them to win."

Cosby watched the back and forth between Castor and the lawyers from the defense table, swiveling his head slightly as if at a tennis match. He showed no reaction when the courtroom erupted periodically in laughter over a quip from the talkative Castor, though he frequently smiled as he made small talk with his lawyers.

In a barrage of allegations that have destroyed Cosby's image as America's Dad, dozens of women have accused the former TV star of drugging and sexually assaulting them since the 1960s. But this is the only case in which he has been charged

The unsealing of the testimony from Constand's lawsuit prompted Castor's successors to reopen the case and ultimately charge Cosby.

Cosby admitted in the deposition that he had affairs with young models and actresses, that he obtained quaaludes to give to women he wanted to have sex with and that he gave Constand three pills at his home. He said he reached into her pants but insisted it was consensual.

Castor defended his decision not to bring charges, testifying that he saw Constand's year-long delay in reporting the allegations, inconsistencies in her statements and her contact with a lawyer before going to police as problematic.

Castor said Constand's delay thwarted his ability to test her hair or fingernails for evidence she was drugged.

In related news, a Los Angeles judge ordered Cosby to attend another deposition in a lawsuit filed by a woman who says the comic forced her to perform a sex act on him at the Playboy Mansion around 1974, when she was 15.

Also Tuesday, model Chloe Goins dropped a lawsuit accusing Cosby of drugging and sexually assaulting her at the Playboy Mansion in 2008. Goins gave no explanation.

Halle Berry: Hollywood not truthful about people of color

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. (AP)—Halle Berry said Hollywood's lack of diversity stems from a lack of honesty. Filmmakers and actors should tell the truth, she said, "and the films, I think, that are coming out of Hollywood aren't truthful."

"The reason they're not truthful these days is they aren't really depicting the importance and the involvement and the participation of people of color in our American culture," Berry said, addressing the film academy's diversity controversy publicly for the first time.

She made the remarks Tuesday during an onstage conversation with her agent, Kevin Huvane, at the Makers Conference, an AOL women's leadership program.

Halle Berry speaks at the 2nd Annual MAKERS Conference at Terranea Resort on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. AP

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been facing a diversity crisis since the nominations announced last month revealed a second consecutive year of all-white acting nominees.

Berry is the only black woman to win an Oscar for lead actress, and she said she's heartbroken her victory for 2001's "Monster's Ball" didn't lead to more women of color being cast in leading roles. But she puts the blame on filmmakers with tunnel vision.

"Our cities are filled with black and brown people. And many times, unfortunately we see films that are set in Chicago, New York, Atlanta—big metropolitan cities—and they're devoid of people of color," she said. "So I feel like when we really live up to our responsibility and challenge ourselves to be truthful, and tell the truth in our storytelling, then people of color will be there in a real competitive way, and it won't be about inclusion or diversity. Because if we're telling the truth, inclusion and diversity will be a byproduct of the truth."

She then looked at Huvane and said: "You hit me with a zinger!"

The Makers Conference, held at the seaside Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, continues through Wednesday with such speakers as Gloria Steinem, Sheryl Sandberg and Caitlyn Jenner.

Vatican disputes pope film claim, says pontiff not an actor

Pope Francis celebrates a mass for nuns and priest, in St.Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016. AP

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican is disputing a U.S. film studio's claim that the pope is making his movie debut, saying no scenes were shot for the venture and that the pope isn't an actor.

Los Angeles-based AMBI Pictures headlined its press release: "Film Will Mark First Ever Big Screen Participation Role for the Leader of the Worldwide Catholic Church."

Monsignor Dario Vigano, the head of the Vatican's communications operation, acknowledged that he couldn't exclude that the filmmakers got hold of some clips of the pope. But in comments broadcast on Vatican Radio on Tuesday, Vigano disputed the press release claiming that Francis would "play himself" in the film "Beyond the Sun."

He said: "The pope is not an actor."

AMBI described the film as "a family adventure story where children from different cultures emulate the apostles while searching for Jesus in the world around them."

AMBI Pictures has produced a handful of releases, including Barry Levinson's "The Humbling," with Al Pacino, and an upcoming John Steinbeck adaptation by James Franco. In November, it drew headlines when it said it would remake Christopher Nolan's "Memento."

The company said "Beyond the Sun" initiated with Francis asking the filmmakers to make a movie for children that communicates Jesus's message. The press release was accompanied by photos of the pope with the filmmakers.

Super Bowl ads this year might be a snooze

NEW YORK (AP)—No GoDaddy. Not a bikini in sight. Service messages instead of crotch or fart jokes. As the Super Bowl turns 50 and faces middle age, will this be the year that advertisers stick to—gasp—good taste?

The Super Bowl remains advertising's biggest stage, especially as the broadcast TV audience fragments further thanks to Netflix and other on-demand TV services. Advertisers are spending as much as an estimated $5 million per 30 seconds to capture more than 114 million viewers expected to tune in. Debate over the game-day ads will start on social media before the game and carry over to work the next day, so it's crucial to stand out, without going so far as to offend.

AP

This image provided by Mini USA shows a still from the company's Super Bowl 50 "Defy Labels" ad spot featuring former Major League Baseball pitcher Randy Johnson. Johnson is one of several celebrities being featured in Mini USA's Super Bowl spot.

But this year, amplifying a trend seen the past few years, advertisers seem to be playing it extra safe. And that might mean a repeat of last year's "Somber Bowl," when viewers were turned off by too-serious ads.

Distinguished British actress Helen Mirren will deliver a lecture about drunken driving and why it's a terrible idea. Many others are going with anthemic or public service-style messages: Colgate Palmolive will urge viewers to "Save Water," while outdoor brand Marmot urges people to spend more time outside and BMW showcases people who "Defy Labels."

Slapstick, crass humor and sex seem to be relegated to the sidelines. Internet address provider GoDaddy, which for 11 years walked the line of bad taste with ads that showed skimpily clad women and an extremely long close up of a kiss, is sitting it out, citing the need for more targeted advertising.

"People want to be entertained. They don't want somber messages or to be reminded of their problems," said veteran ad man Richard Kirshenbaum, CEO of ad agency NSG/SWAT. "The Super Bowl is America's great campfire. People want to gather around and have a great time."

Judge finalizes Hilary Duff's divorce from ex-NHL player

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge has finalized Hilary Duff's divorce from former NHL player Mike Comrie.

The judgment, which was first reported Tuesday by celebrity website TMZ, was finalized on Thursday.

The 28-year-old singer and actress starred in the "Lizzie McGuire" television series and film and stars on the TV Land series "Younger." Comrie played professional hockey between 2000 and 2011, ending his career with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Duff and Comrie were married in August 2010 and separated in January 2014. They have a three-year-old son together and will share joint custody.

The judgment states the pair had a prenuptial agreement and Comrie is giving up rights to their home in exchange for a $2.4 million payment from Duff.

'Star Wars," Jurassic World' among Kids Choice nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stormtroopers, superheroes, dinosaurs and Cinderella are among the nominees at this year's Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards.

The cable network announced Tuesday that "Ant-Man," ''Avengers: Age of Ultron, "Cinderella," ''Daddy's Home," ''Jurassic World," ''Pitch Perfect 2," ''Star Wars: The Force Awakens," and "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" are up for the favorite film prize at the 29th annual ceremony.

The slime-filled extravaganza honoring kids' pop-culture picks will be held March 12 at the Forum in Inglewood, California. Blake Shelton is serving as host of the viewer-voted honors.

Other nominees include "The Big Bang Theory," ''The Flash," ''Modern Family," ''Once Upon a Time," ''The Muppets" and "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." for favorite family TV show.

The Kids Choice Awards has added favorite cooking show and music collaboration as categories this year.

Lady Gaga to sing national anthem at Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga is set to sing the national anthem at the Super Bowl on Sunday.

The NFL told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Gaga will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, where the Carolina Panthers will take on the Denver Broncos.

Academy Award winning actress Marlee Matlin will perform in American Sign Language during the national anthem.

Super Bowl 50 will air on CBS, and halftime show performers include Coldplay and Beyonce.

Gaga's upcoming performance during the Super Bowl is another notch in her belt: She won a Golden Globe for her role in "American Horror Story: Hotel" last month and she's nominated for best original song at the Academy Awards on Feb. 28 with "Til It Happens to You," the song she wrote with Diane Warren for the sexual assault documentary, "The Hunting Ground." The song is also nominated for a Grammy at the Feb. 15 awards show, where Gaga will pay tribute to David Bowie with a performance.

Last year, Gaga wowed audiences at the Oscars when she paid tribute to "The Sound of Music" with a show-stopping performance. She won her sixth Grammy for her collaborative jazz album with Tony Bennett, and she was named woman of the year by Billboard.

Tony-winning actress and "Let It Go" singer Idina Menzel sang the national anthem at last year's Super Bowl.

AP

In this Nov. 23, 2015 file photo, Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival at the British Fashion Awards 2015 in London.

Visits to mother-in-law like stepping into a fight ring

DEAR ABBY: I am dreading an upcoming trip that includes a visit to my husband's mother, "Harriet." She is prone to "accidents" when I visit, and I always end up getting hurt. Harriet's "oops" moments usually involve my toes and feet, although the last time I was there she managed to strike my face.

I have taken the precaution of looking up the phone number of the police department in her city, just in case she hits me again. Is there a way to keep her at arm's length so she can't get close enough to punch me? In the 20-plus years I have known Harriet, she has always been a bully. She strikes out at me because I stood up to her.

APPREHENSIVE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR APPREHENSIVE: Because this has gone on for 20 years, I'm inclined to agree with your suspicion that these "mishaps" haven't been accidental. An effective way to prevent further injury would be to avoid being in the same town with Harriet. The next time your husband decides to visit her, take a detour and let him deal with his mother. She sounds like a handful.

DEAR ABBY: A 30-year-old relative of mine has developed a "germ phobia." She constantly applies hand sanitizer and avoids anyone who exhibits any kind of symptoms. She refused to visit me when I was in the hospital because she thought she might catch something. She was not always like this.

I love her dearly and have no idea what has caused the problem. Is there anything I can do to get her to give up some of the precautions she's taking—or does she need professional help?

WORRIED RELATIVE IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR WORRIED RELATIVE: Because you don't know what has caused her health concerns, I recommend you ASK her. Hand sanitizers are popular because they claim to kill 99 percent of germs and decrease bacteria on the skin. Every time someone opens the door to a public building or presses an elevator button it's as though that person has shaken hands with everyone who has been there before, so using hand sanitizer seems like good sense to me.

As to your relative not visiting you while you were hospitalized, the reason doctors are reducing the length of hospital stays and are performing so many outpatient procedures is to minimize the germs that patients are exposed to in the hospital.

DEAR ABBY: I just think that as a child, I have too many responsibilities to take care of. My mother thinks I am stubborn and not able to take care of myself. What do you think?

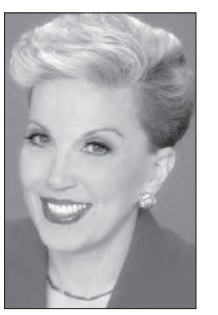
HELENA, AGE 9

DEAR HELENA: I think you have a good mother. The way to teach children responsibility is to place some on their shoulders. If you learn the lessons of independence your mother is trying to teach you, with time these chores will become easier and less overwhelming. And you will thank her for them later when you're older.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

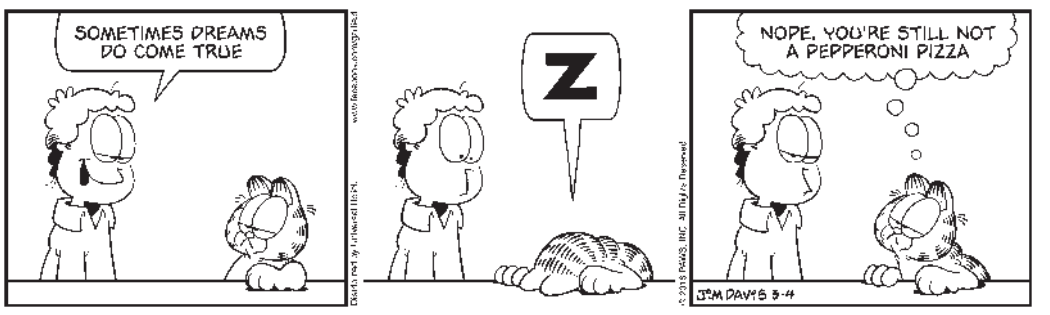
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

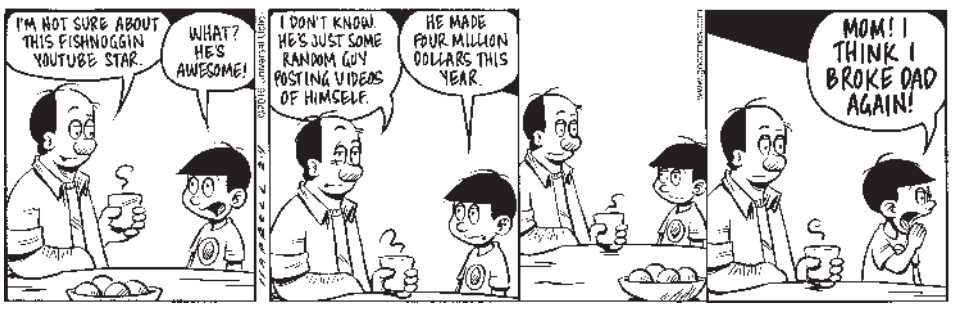
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



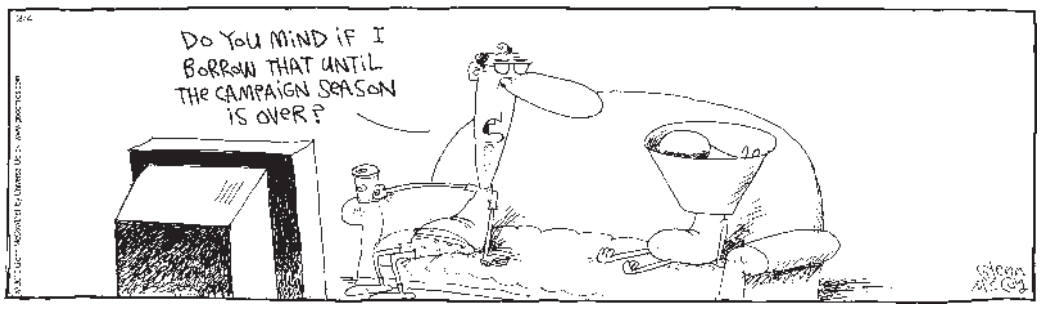
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS FISHNOGGIN YOUTUBE STAR.
WHAT? HE'S AWESOME!
I DON'T KNOW. HE'S JUST SOME RANDOM GUY POSTING VIDEOS OF HIMSELF.
HE MADE FOUR MILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR.
MOM! I THINK I BROKE DAD AGAIN!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

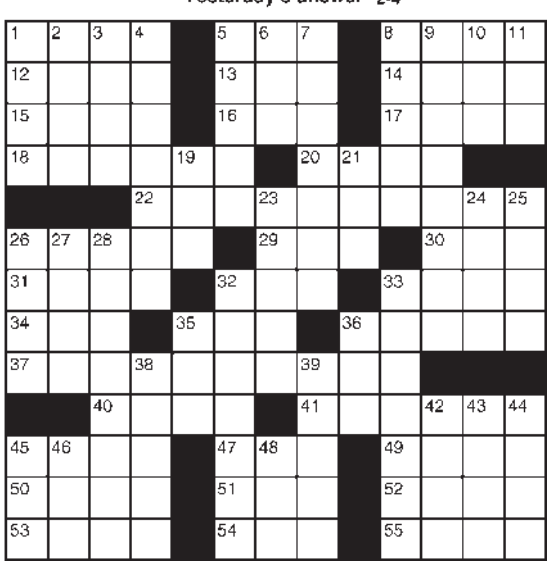
ACROSS
1 Lose traction
5 TV alien
8 First victim
12 Shakespearean king
13 German article
14 Vega's constellation
15 Jason's ship
16 Greek H
17 Mellowed
18 Push forward
20 Christen
22 Craving for Kisses?
26 Navajo or Hopi
29 Energy
30 Carnival city
31 Sly
32 Twitch
33 Curved molding
34 Oft-torn knee part, for short
35 Set (down)
36 Color workers
37 Poor loser's reaction
40 Playwright O'Casey
41 Place in a crypt
45 Bassoon's kin
47 Author Fleming
49 Satan's forte
50 Difficult
51 One-star rating
52 Medieval letter
53 Baseball legend Willie
54 "Thar — blows!"
55 Diving duck

DOWN
1 Open-handed hit
2 Actress Deborah
3 "Othello" villain
4 Pops in unannounced
5 Fred's dancing partner
6 Allow
7 In a tizzy
8 Memorable mission
9 "Good gracious!"
10 Before
11 Young bloke
19 Ram's ma'am
21 $ dispenser
23 Musical set in Argentina
24 Level
25 Tackles weeds
26 "— the night before ..."
27 Puerto —
28 Like a mirage
32 Root vegetables
33 Pearl producers
35 Links org.
36 Lair
38 Marsh growth
39 Tubular pasta
42 Egg
43 Ore source
44 Erupted, as a volcano
45 Resistance unit
46 Sheep call
48 Contented sound

Solution time: 24 mins.

			M	F	T			T	A	P		
		B	E	A	R		B	U	I	L	D	
I	O	H	S	I			N	S	E	H	I	
W	A	I	T	U	N	I	I	L	D	A	H	K
A	R	T		M	E	E	S	E		M	A	I
			O	P	T	S				P	A	S	T
		B	A	T	H	S		S	T	A	S	H
T	U	F	T			A	H	E	M			
U	R	.		R	F	B	F	I		I	C	I
T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D	L	I	G	H	T
	O	M	E	_	E	T		O	G	L	E	S
		E	R	I	C	S		F	O	O	T	
			A	C	T			F	R	O		

Yesterday's answer 2-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Oscar De La Hoya, 43; Gabrielle Anwar, 46; Clint Black, 54; Alice Cooper, 68.

Happy Birthday: Your innovative way of dealing with whatever comes your way will be entertaining, but don't let the attention you get this year cause you to lose sight of what's realistic. You'll be tempted to overdo it, causing emotional instability if you aren't selective in the choices and commitments you make. Self-improvement projects that raise your earning potential are favored. Your numbers are 3, 14, 16, 26, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Participate in the cause you feel most passionate about. Emotions will mount, encouraging you to make a move you've been contemplating. Don't overreact if a friend, colleague or sibling makes a negative comment or does something you don't like. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Try something new and you'll discover a talent you didn't know you had. You will be enlightened by the experience you have and the people you encounter. A journey will lead to a new beginning and a fresh way of doing things. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do whatever it takes to reflect and find solutions to situations that have the potential to leave you in a vulnerable position. Stick to a strict budget and refuse to be enticed by someone who wants you to be reckless with your spending. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination take over. Follow your heart and trust your intuition to take you on a magical journey. A partnership that allows you to follow a dream or explore your creativity will develop. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Address what you are dissatisfied with in your life. It's up to you to make the effort if you want to change your life or your direction. A day trip will lead to the information you require to initiate positive changes. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take care of your responsibilities so that you can get on with your day and do the things you want. Participating in a function that is geared toward children or socializing can be fun, but be careful not to overspend. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen to complaints, but don't let anyone make you feel guilty. It's important to focus on making personal changes that will lead to greater happiness and less stress. You may want to consider a move or a change of friends. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make concrete moves that allow you the freedom to follow your dreams and do as you please. Someone you meet along the way will offer encouragement and might want to tag along with you as well. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An emotional or indulgent streak will lead to disaster. Before things get out of hand, take a step back and consider what you can do to avoid mishaps. Don't venture too far from home. Problems while traveling are likely. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll attract positive attention with your forthright attitude and your keen sense of perception. Make the most of your day by taking care of business and investing your time in what you do best. Celebrate your victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll attract attention and offers that you won't want to refuse. Good fortune is heading your way, and the opportunity to use your imagination will result in a new and exciting project. Embrace change, but refrain from overspending. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get involved in a worthy cause or reconnect with the people you have worked with in the past and good things will transpire. You will advance if you do the legwork required to put your creative plans in motion. Romance is recommended. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, energetic and enthusiastic. You are orderly and helpful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9			2		
	9			2			6	
1		3	6			7		
						3		7
	5		2	1	8		4	
9		2						
		1			7	6		3
	7			4			8	
		9			6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	4	7	6	9	1	8	3
9	8	3	1	2	4	6	5	7
7	1	6	8	3	5	2	4	9
3	6	8	9	7	1	5	2	4
2	5	7	4	8	3	9	1	6
1	4	9	2	5	6	3	7	8
8	7	1	6	9	2	4	3	5
4	9	5	3	1	7	8	6	2
6	3	2	5	4	8	7	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NANOBOTS **Solution: 9 letters**

P	M	M	O	S	Y	N	T	H	E	T	I	C	R	L
S	R	A	E	R	I	L	C	I	N	A	G	R	O	A
M	L	O	G	C	E	L	I	M	I	T	S	R	S	C
S	I	A	G	N	N	T	I	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	H	N	I
G	D	G	I	R	E	E	U	C	N	N	E	E	E	T
N	I	I	R	R	A	T	I	O	O	A	C	Q	S	E
I	S	C	O	A	E	M	I	C	L	N	U	S	U	R
R	E	I	O	N	T	T	M	C	S	I	U	I	O	O
E	A	L	L	N	A	E	A	E	P	T	R	S	M	E
E	S	I	R	G	D	N	G	M	D	E	S	O	O	H
N	E	A	I	I	O	I	E	A	W	S	W	N	N	T
I	S	V	C	B	A	N	T	O	T	A	A	G	O	O
G	A	I	R	A	T	P	P	I	R	S	R	A	T	B
N	N	A	E	C	I	V	E	D	O	O	M	I	U	O
E	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	B	N	S	D	A	R

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/4

Autonomous, Borg, Carbon, Cilia, Computer, Condition, Control, Device, Diagnosis, Diseases, Engineering, Equipment, Heal, Host, Limits, Magnetic, Medicine, Migrate, Nanites, Nanoids, Navigation, Organic, Outer, Power, Programmed, Raw Materials, Repair, Robot, Science, Sensor, Silicon, Stage, Swarms, Synthetic, Theoretical

Yesterday's Answer: Income

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Director of Sales & Marketing. Minimum of ten (10) years Resort' Sales & Marketing management experience required. Minimum of three (3) years Executive position experience. Responsible for planning, developing and implementing Sales & Marketing strategies for all Market segments, including Russian market. Fluent English and Russian. Knowledge of CNMI Travel industry and Russian market required. E-mail resume to info@mangoresort.com. Contact Elly at (670) 989-3325 for more information.

---

(1) Building & Ground Maintenance Repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9351.

---

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight.Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com.

2-H.E. Operator $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimco Ent. Inc.

4-Electrician $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

2-Plumber $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Delivery Driver (5)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: February 5, 2016

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED

NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan. Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.

NOW LEASING
Starting @ $599/mo.

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

www.saipantribune.com

Customers First
TRIPLE J
is now accepting applications for the following position:

MARKETING COORDINATOR

The marketing coordinator will assist the marketing team with day to day marketing tasks and coordinating marketing projects and activities for Triple J group of companies in Saipan, as requested

DUTIES
- Assisting with the production of artwork, sourcing images, etc.
- Produce clear and concise written correspondence in the form of letters and emails.
- Interface with internal and external customers along with marketing vendors.
- Act as internal liaison and develop report structure to assist in prioritizing departmental projects.
- Assist the VP of Marketing and Marketing Supervisor in managing events and sponsorships and ensure the execution while maximizing all possible opportunities.
- Assist and support the marketing team in managing, writing content and minor creative conceptual for company newsletter, social media, email campaigns, etc.
- Assist and support the marketing team in analyzing results of marketing campaigns and programs.
- Be aware of the marketing efforts and promotion of the competition.
- Other support and administrative activities as needed and as assigned by the VP of Marketing.

Salary will be commensurate with knowledge and experience
Please submit resume by way of e-mail to the attention of the Director of Human Resources .
Email: frankada@triplejguam.com

WHATZIT Solution: First among equals

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

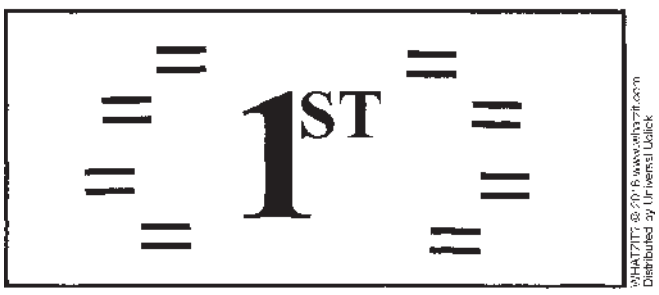
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Tight ends Olsen and Daniels could be decisive in Super Bowl

AP

In this Jan. 24, 2016, file photo, Denver Broncos tight end Owen Daniels (81) catches a 21-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Peyton Manning during the first half the AFC championship NFL football game against the New England Patriots in Denver.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In a tight spot, Cam Newton and Peyton Manning just might look for their tight ends.

It works.

Newton's target is Greg Olsen. Manning's is Owen Daniels.

Some observers believe Olsen is as valuable to his team as All-Pro TE Rob Gronkowski is to the Patriots.

If you think that's a stretch, look at Olsen's numbers: 77 receptions, 1,104 yards and seven touchdowns during the season, when the next leader in catches for Carolina was Ted Ginn Jr., with 44.

In two playoff games, Olsen has 12 catches for 190 yards and one sensational TD. Next best is Philly Brown with six receptions.

"He's a guy I can always turn to, always count on," Newton said of the nine-year veteran acquired from Chicago for a mere third-round draft choice in 2011.

And he's done so week after week. Olsen is averaging just under eight targets a game through Carolina's 17-1 record.

Unlike Newton, Manning has two top-level wide receivers in Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. But throughout his superb career, Manning always has had a symbiotic relationship with his tight ends, from Dallas Clark to Julius Thomas and now, for this season, with Owen Daniels.

Daniels was signed as a free agent in 2015 after one year in Baltimore. That followed a highly productive eight seasons with the Texans, where current Broncos coach Gary Kubiak was in charge from 2006, when Daniels was a fourth-round pick, until 2013.

Daniels has made two Pro Bowls and had 46 catches and three touchdowns this season. He caught both of Manning's TD passes in the AFC championship game win against New England.

No one knows this offense better than Daniels, who has spent his entire career on the same team as Kubiak.

"Having Owen Daniels in the huddle was very helpful," Manning said of Denver's 14-4 record. "Owen, to have in the huddle, a play call would come in and I would recite the play just basically repeating it, trying to process it at the same time.

"And Owen would sort of remind you at the very end what route he had, who's hot on this play, or Demaryius had a post route. So he was doing a lot of coaching out there, still does."

On Sunday, each team is faced with a tricky situation in covering the tight ends. Olsen could require the attention of one of Denver's outstanding cornerbacks, Chris Harris Jr., or Aqib Talib. He poses more of a threat overall than any of Carolina's wideouts.

And while Daniels won't get the attention of All-Pro cornerback Josh Norman, who will be busy with Thomas and Sanders, he could draw ball-hawking safety Kurt Coleman's attention. Maybe even one of the Panthers' two All-Pro cornerbacks, Luke Kuechly or Thomas Davis, will draw some of those assignments.

"Tight ends always improve offense," Daniels said, noting he's gotten more looks and produced even more since Vernon Davis joined the Broncos in midseason.

"We're involved a pretty good amount, they want to involve us. The matchups we're looking at this weekend is a good challenge all around the field, their linebacking corps."

Kubiak isn't concerned that Daniels will be overmatched.

"I've said this numerous times: as a coach, when you bounce and you go somewhere and guys are free, you get asked about them," Kubiak said. "If you're going to stand up and say, 'Go get this player,' ... you better be right. There are a lot of players out there, but I've always thought the world of Owen. I knew he had some football left in him.

"I knew he'd be a great guy in the locker room. I told John (Elway), 'You watch the film, but I'll stand up for him as a person.' They watched the film, and the good news is we got him with us."

The good news for Carolina is that Olsen is having as good a season as any tight end this side of Gronk. He's even more of a weapon than Daniels because Olsen can get deep.

So can Ginn and Brown, who scored touchdowns against Arizona in the NFC title game. But neither of them can run routes with anything close to the precision Olsen displays. And no one has the comfort level with Newton that Olsen possesses.

"I think our production speaks for itself. We're as productive as any quarterback-tight end combo in the league the last handful of years," Olsen said.

Newton wants black QB issue put away for good

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Cam Newton wants any discussion of black quarterbacks in a Super Bowl put away.

For good.

Newton on Tuesday emphatically tried to lay to rest any relevance of an African-American quarterback appearing in the NFL's championship game.

During a series of questions by a media member that bordered on confrontational, Newton finally said to the reporter: "It's not an issue. It's an issue for you."

Carolina's All-Pro quarterback, seemingly tired of the topic, added: "I think we shattered that a long time ago."

This was the third time Newton had to deal with the subject since the Panthers made the Super Bowl. He didn't need to point out that several other black quarterbacks have led their teams to the big game: Doug Williams, Steve McNair, Donovan McNabb, Colin Kaepernick, and Seattle's Russell Wilson the past two years.

Color? It matters not at all and never should have.

"I don't even want to touch on the topic of 'black quarterback' because I think this game is bigger than black, white or even green," the fifth-year Panther said. "I think we limit ourselves when we just label ourselves just black this, that ...

"I want to bring awareness because of that, but yeah, I don't think I should be labeled just a black quarterback. It's bigger things in this sport that need to be accomplished."

Newton was on a podium for the media session, calmly and often comically answering questions for about 30 minutes. But when the issue of race was raised, his demeanor turned serious, and his answers profound.

He spoke about being a role model and an inspiration to others. About living the dream he has had since he was very young. And about making a difference.

"I pray to God that you know I do right by my influence," Newton said. "So when you ask me questions about African-American or being a black and mobile (quarterback), it's bigger than that.

"Because when I go places and I talk to kids and I talk to parents and I talk to athletes all over, they look at my story and they see a person - African-American or not - they see something that they can relate to. They see a guy who went a different route than just going to a major Division I school and flourishing there.

"But I just want to become relatable, you know what I'm saying? It's bigger than race. It's more so of opening up a door for guys that don't want to be labeled, that have bigger views and say: 'Well, I'm in this situation, I'm living in this environment right now, but I also want to be an artist, I want to be a poet. But I don't have the means, you know, to necessarily do the right things at that point.

"As for me, I just want to give those people hope."

Vernon Davis hopes to play a role in Super Bowl with Broncos

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Vernon Davis got to sleep at home for a night in the Bay Area, stay in the same hotel where he lived during 49ers training camp last summer, and the equipment staff even promised him his old locker at Levi's Stadium this weekend.

No matter that he might play a bit part in this Super Bowl for the Denver Broncos, Davis is back where he has made a home for more than a decade and ready to win a championship ring after coming up just short three years ago with San Francisco.

It just so happened he arrived Sunday for Super Bowl week on his 32nd birthday, too.

"It hasn't been that long since I left here, so it kind of seems like I was just here," said Davis, who was traded from the 49ers to the Broncos on Nov. 2. "I'll look around a little bit and get a gauge on things and I'll come to the realization that I'm actually playing in the Super Bowl at Levi's Stadium."

The veteran tight end has had discussions with many a teammate already on the importance that they "just stay together, just stay in this moment, and don't get caught up on the outside because the moment you do there's a lot of risk."

Davis didn't even have plans to stop by the Jamba Juice store he owns.

He would love nothing more than to leave his mark on this Super Bowl, somehow. Even if he has played all of 11 snaps this postseason with one target and no catches.

"You haven't seen me but there's a chance that you could see me," he said. "I don't know. I'm all about faith, anything could happen just like that. The moment it does, I have to take advantage of my opportunities. They will come. ... I'm a patient guy and I'm ready whenever the opportunity presents itself."

Davis' short time in the offense—and playing with two different quarterbacks in Peyton Manning and backup Brock Osweiler - made for a challenging transition to his new team.

According to Football Perspective, Davis is one of just four players to have competed in home games on the Super Bowl field during the regular season then return for the championship game with a different team.

For Davis, that three-point loss to Baltimore in the Super Bowl following the 2012 season has stuck with him - just as it has for many of his former 49ers teammates.

Kobe scores 38, Lakers beat Wolves to end skid

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant hit seven 3-pointers while scoring a season-high 38 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped their 10-game losing streak with a 119-115 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday night.

Lou Williams scored 20 points for the Lakers, who avoided the longest losing streak in the 16-time champion franchise's history despite blowing a 16-point lead in the second half. Los Angeles had lost 10 straight for the first time since 1994.

Bryant took charge with a vintage performance in his farewell season, repeatedly scoring from the perimeter in the Lakers' first win since Jan. 12.

After Minnesota took the lead in the waning minutes, Bryant put the Lakers back ahead with dramatic back-to-back 3-pointers.

He also drained a 19-footer with 26 seconds last to put them up 113-110.

Bryant hit six free throws in the last 16.7 seconds. He scored 14 of the Lakers' 18 points in the final 5:02, evoking memories of the best years for the third-leading scorer in NBA history.

Andrew Wiggins scored 30 points and led an impressive second-half surge by the Timberwolves, who have lost five straight and 16 of 18. Gorgui Dieng scored 19 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and nine rebounds.

Wiggins made a turnover with 17 seconds left after Bryant's big jumper, and Bryant salted away the game at the line amid countless chants of his name from nostalgic fans.

Rookie D'Angelo Russell had 18 points for the Lakers.

The Timberwolves played without injured Kevin Martin, Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Garnett, whose sore right knee robbed him of his last chance to suit up against Bryant during their two parallel decades in the NBA. The Lakers met Garnett's Celtics in the 2008 and 2010 NBA Finals.

Several Lakers have said they didn't pay attention to the history behind their streak, but they came out against Minnesota seemingly determined to end it.

Los Angeles roared to a 16-point lead while scoring a season-high 39 points in the second quarter. The surge was led by Bryant and Russell, who was chosen right behind Towns last summer with the No. 2 pick in the draft.

The Lakers still led by 16 late in the third, but Minnesota went ahead on Zach LaVine's layup with 5:16 to play.

Bucks 107, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, CJ McCollum had 30 points and Portland beat the Milwaukee Bucks 107-95 on Tuesday night for the Trail Blazers' season-high fifth straight win.

Damian Lillard had 14 points and 12 assists for his 11th double-double of the season. Al-Farouq Aminu added 16 points for the Blazers, who have won nine of their last 11.

Khris Middleton had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Bucks, who have lost four straight and six of their last seven. Milwaukee was coming off a 111-104 loss at Sacramento the night before.

Giannis Antetokounmpo added 19 points and Greg Monroe had 17 for the Bucks, both also with eight rebounds apiece.

It was also the fifth straight home win for the Blazers, who have limited their last three opponents to fewer than 100 points each. Portland led by 17 points in the second half.

Aminu was hot at the start, scoring 10 points before the halfway point of the first quarter, as the Blazers took a 19-8 lead. Portland led 27-19 at the end of the first.

After trailing by 13, the Bucks closed the gap late to pull to 56-49 at halftime.

Middleton's jumper got Milwaukee to 60-57 as Portland's defense, a highlight in recent games, faltered.

Portland was also hurt when forward Noah Vonleh landed awkwardly after going up for a rebound in the third quarter and appeared to injure his left foot. After limping to the bench, he went to the locker room and did not return. The team later said he had a left ankle sprain.

Greg Monroe's short jumper got Milwaukee within one at 63-62, but Portland answered every Bucks basket before pulling away in the final quarter. Gerald Henderson stretched Portland's lead to 92-77 with a 3-pointer with 7:37 left in the game.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant, left, drives past Minnesota Timberwolves guard Andrew Wiggins during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 119-115.

Celtics 97, Knicks 89

In New York, the Celtics toughened up their defense and were simply too tough for the Knicks.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and eight assists, and Boston wore down New York in a 97-89 victory on Tuesday night.

Jae Crowder and Tyler Zeller each added 16 points, while reserves Evan Turner and Kelly Olynyk were also in double figures as the Celtics were fresher and sharper in dominating the final 15 minutes.

"Eventually we started wearing them down playing great defense, and we got stops and turned them into buckets," Turner said.

Turner had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Olynyk scored 13 points in the Celtics' sixth victory in seven games.

"In the second half we did a better job in a lot of ways from a physicality standpoint and I thought we got them off the glass," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Carmelo Anthony had 16 points and 14 rebounds but shot just 4 for 16 in the Knicks' sixth loss in seven games. Robin Lopez added 17 points and 13 rebounds, while Arron Afflalo ended a shooting slump with 18 points but had some careless turnovers.

"We just couldn't find a combination of guys that could sustain on both ends," Knicks coach Derek Fisher said.

The Celtics had scored at least 110 points in six straight games but the offense wasn't there in this one—they missed all 13 3-point attempts in the first half - so they turned to their defense after losing 119-114 to Orlando on Sunday. They held the Knicks to 37.8 percent shooting and forced 17 turnovers - well, some actually didn't look forced at all.

Raptors 102, Suns 97

In Phoenix, Kyle Lowry scored 26 points, including five 3-pointers, DeMar DeRozan added 22 points and Toronto spoiled the debut of Phoenix interim coach Earl Watson.

The Raptors, whose franchise-record 11-game losing streak ended Monday night in Denver, led the entire second half but had to hold on at the finish.

Markieff Morris had 30 points and 11 rebounds, both season highs, for the Suns, who fired coach Jeff Hornacek on Monday and promoted the 36-year-old Watson to the interim job. Phoenix rookie Devin Booker added 27 points, matching his career best with six 3s. Archie Goodwin had 18 points and a career-best 12 assists for the Suns, who have lost five in a row and 20 of their last 22.

Rockets 115, Heat 102

In Houston, James Harden scored 26 points and tied a career-high with 14 assists as the Houston Rockets snapped a three-game skid with a 115-102 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

Houston had a double-digit lead for most of the second half and was up by 10 when Josh Smith scored all of the team's points in a 7-2 run that pushed the advantage to 104-89 with about five minutes remaining.

The Rockets started Smith, a 6-foot-9 forward, at center with Dwight Howard serving a one-game suspension for making contact with an official this weekend and Clint Capela out with a thigh injury.

Smith scored a season-high 19 points in his second start this season and first since returning to Houston in a trade from the Clippers on Jan. 22.

Luol Deng had 17 points for the Heat whose season-high four game winning streak ended.

SIDEBAR Clippers waiting on results of NBA's Griffin inquiry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers will decide whether Blake Griffin joins them for the team's upcoming road trip after the NBA announces the results of its investigation of the star forward's punching of an assistant equipment manager.

Griffin broke his shooting hand in the Jan. 23 incident in Toronto between him and Matias Testi. Both men were sent back to Los Angeles, and Griffin hasn't been at Staples Center for the team's recent home games against the Lakers and Bulls.

The team is keeping him away from the media until the NBA announces the results of its investigation, which could happen on Wednesday, when the Clippers host Minnesota. Testi also has been absent while he recovers from facial injuries.

"It's over with as far as we're concerned," coach Doc Rivers said Tuesday at practice. "The only thing is we have to get the punishment from the league and see where we're going. Other than that, we're good."

The team completed its own investigation into the altercation last week.

Rivers said he hopes Testi can rejoin the team for its four-game trip beginning Friday at Orlando. He has spoken to both Griffin and Testi, who were friends before the incident.

Rivers said he's aware of similar incidents that have occurred in the NBA, and he expressed optimism that Griffin and Testi could coexist peacefully going forward.

"It's going to be healed," he said. "It's going to be OK."

Griffin is out for at least a month because of his right hand, giving him additional time to recover from a partially torn left quad tendon that had sidelined him since Dec. 26.

Meanwhile, the NBA suspended Rockets center Dwight Howard for Tuesday night's game against Miami for touching an official during a loss over the weekend.

The league said the one-game suspension without pay was for "striking the arm of a game official" late in Saturday's 123-122 home loss to Washington. Houston coach J.B. Bickerstaff was also fined $10,000 for public criticism of the officiating after the game.

Howard was ejected after getting his second technical of the night with 8:08 left in the fourth after pushing Nene while the two tangled under the basket. Nene was also ejected for a double technical on the play.

Howard was whistled for his first technical after putting his hands on the back of Chris Dudley's neck following Dudley's flagrant foul in what appeared to be a joking manner. Howard had been ejected from Friday's game, too, and has 12 technical fouls this season.

"These referees need to be held accountable for letting people attack Dwight and be that physical with him," Bickerstaff said afterward. "And dirty. It's not physical. If they

Manchester United eases to 3-0 win over Stoke

MANCHESTER (AP)—Manchester United eased to a 3-0 victory against Stoke in the Premier League on Tuesday, with an attacking display at Old Trafford signaling a potential upturn in confidence at the club.

Jesse Lingard opened the scoring with a close-range header after 14 minutes for United's first goal in the first half at home in 11 matches.

Anthony Martial doubled the advantage nine minutes later, collecting a neat pass from Juan Mata before sweeping home with a curling effort across goal. Captain Wayne Rooney completed the scoring in the second half from close range, Martial providing the assist.

United is fifth in the Premier League, five points behind Arsenal in fourth, which occupies the final Champions League position.

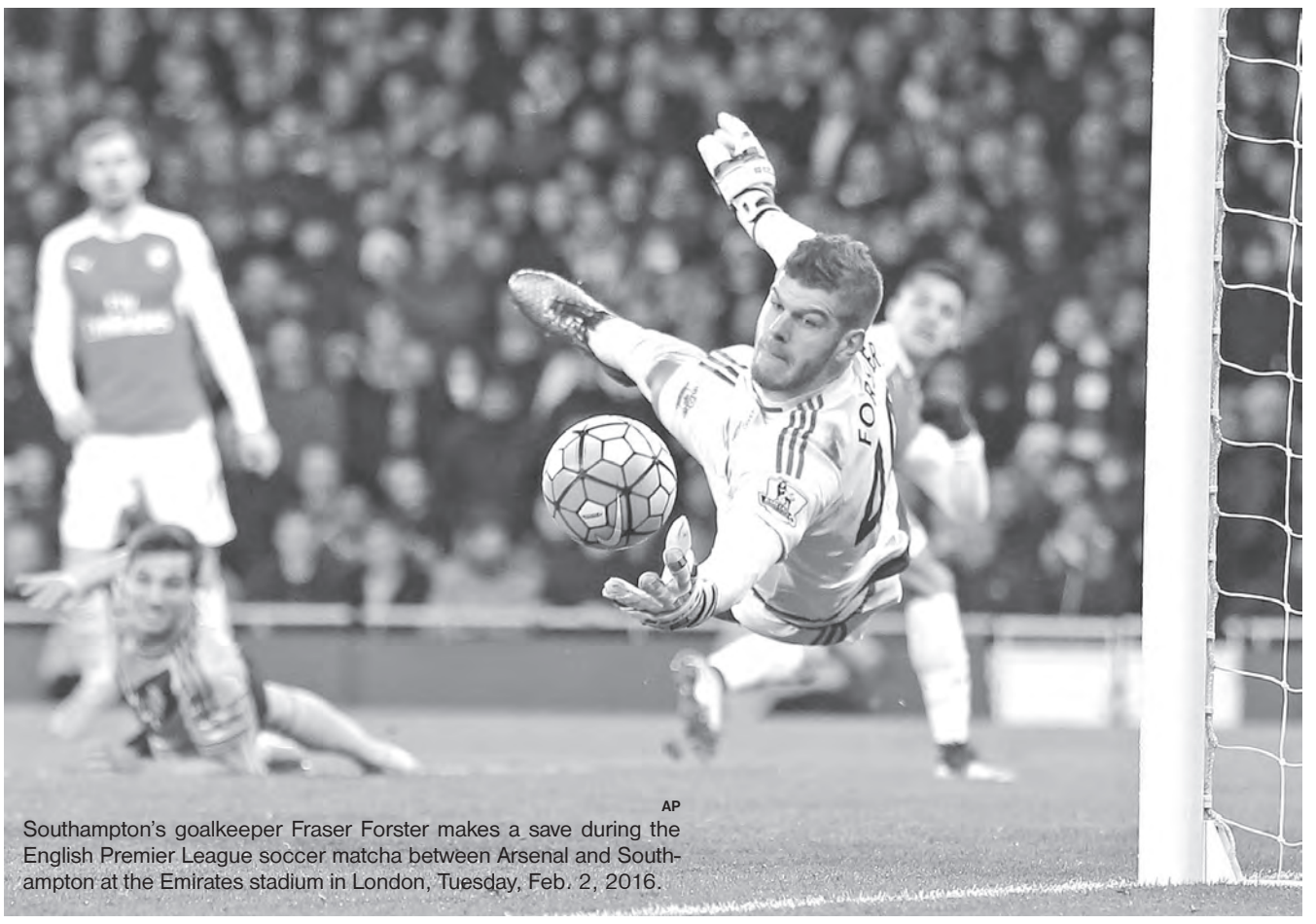
United boss Louis van Gaal thought the attacking nature of his team's display helped his players relax on the field.

The cheers and applause United's team received from supporters at full time created a remarkably different atmosphere to the boos and jeers at the end of its previous home match, a 1-0 defeat by Southampton.

"Michael Carrick said to me what a difference a first-half goal makes because you can play with much more confidence," Van Gaal said. "We scored two goals in the first half and it was an easier game than I expected. In the second half we controlled the game and did not give any chances to Stoke."

Van Gaal reserved special praise for Martial's goal, which capped a creative display from the France international.

"The second one was a team goal, building up from the back and then switching the play to the other side and then a finish like that, it was fantastic," Van Gaal said. "It could be a turning point but you never know."



AP

Southampton's goalkeeper Fraser Forster makes a save during the English Premier League soccer matcha between Arsenal and Southampton at the Emirates stadium in London, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016.

But United goalkeeper David de Gea was certain about what United needs to do to resurrect its campaign—where the lowest expectation is a top-four finish to qualify for the Champions League.

"It's one of our best games this season," De Gea said. "We need to stay at this level."

United's margin of victory could have been greater—substitute Memphis Depay shot narrowly over the crossbar late on—but the performance was controlled and assured from the home side.

As for Stoke, manager Mark Hughes also felt the start was crucial for how the match unraveled.

"We conceded early on, were too passive and for the first goal we didn't get close enough to people," Hughes said.

"Avoiding going 1-0 down early on is what you talk about before coming to Old Trafford."

Stoke is ninth in the Premier League on 33 points. United travels to London next to face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, while Stoke hosts Everton on Saturday.

Arsenal 0, Southampton 0

In London, Arsenal dropped five points behind leader Leicester in the English Premier League with a goalless draw against Southampton on Tuesday.

Arsene Wenger's side found Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster on top form at Emirates Stadium and the north London side has now taken just three points in four games.

The result means the Gunners drop to fourth behind rival Tottenham, which leads on goal difference after a 3-0 win at Norwich.

While Forster was immense in goal, the Gunners had enough opportunities to win with Mesut Ozil and Laurent Koscielny both missing chances, the defender heading over the bar with the `keeper off his goalline.

Leicester 2, Liverpool 0

In Manchester, Jamie Vardy's stunning volley set Leicester on its way to a 2-0 victory over Liverpool on Tuesday, keeping the unlikely title challengers top of the Premier League on a night Manchester United rediscovered its scoring touch at Old Trafford.

Manchester City and Tottenham also won to stay in touch with Leicester, but Arsenal was held 0-0 by Southampton and dropped to fourth place.

Leicester preserved its three-point lead over City and its title charge shows no sign of slowing—nor does Vardy's prolific form this season.

Tottenham 3, Norwich 0

In Norwich, Tottenham beat Norwich 3-0 Tuesday to leapfrog its London rival Arsenal and move third in the Premier League.

The visitors won their third straight league game with a second-minute goal from Dele Alli, followed by a double from Harry Kane, including one from the penalty spot at Carrow Road.

Tottenham and Arsenal both have 45 points but Spurs has the better goal difference. Arsenal and Southampton drew 0-0 Tuesday.

West Ham 2, Aston Villa 0

In London, Michail Antonio scored in the 58th minute and Cheikhou Kouyate added a goal in the 85th as West Ham United beat Aston Villa 2-0 on Tuesday.

Aston Villa had leading goal scorer Jordan Ayew sent off in the 17th minute for elbowing an opponent in the loss, which left the English Premier League's last-place team 10 points adrift of safety.

CAMP

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Suzuki added that the invited players will have two training matches in San Diego. He also said that the off-island players and the more than 30 on Saipan are part of the training pool list and he will decide the final roster for the Blue Ayuyus at the completion of the camp.

Only 18 players will be selected to suit up for the Blue Ayuyus and compete against four of the nine other EAFF members. The venue of the EAFF tournament has yet to be announced along with the groupings.

On-island players wishing to land a spot on the elite squad will continue their training while Sekiguchi is holding the camp in San Diego. Assistant coach Jershwin Angeles will lead the training session in the absence of Sekiguchi and Suzuki.

Meanwhile, four players from Aries FC will arrive today and join the CNMI training pool's practice at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. The other members of the visiting squad from Japan will touchdown at the Saipan International Airport tomorrow in time for a friendly match against the training pool this Saturday.

OL'ACES

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the U18 division, the Ol'Aces two squads will battle the age group crown against two teams from Sonics, and one each from Rollers and San Antonio, and one squad under Boy Garcia. For the U21 age group, the Sonics and Rollers will compete against two Ol'Aces squads, but the number of teams could still grow as league commissioner Elias Rangamar said they are still accepting entries.

Representatives of the 17 confirmed teams are requested to attend a meeting this Friday at 5pm at the conference room of the Ada gym. Game schedule, team uniform colors and rosters, entrance fee, and details of the opening ceremony will be discussed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Rotary caging has been renamed in honor of Diaz, an avid basketball fan and was one of the people who approached basketball officials to start a league for the youth, according to Rangamar.

The youth league has produced many CNMI national players like Jericho Cruz, who now plays in the Philippine Basketball Association—the first professional cage league in Asia. Other notable Rotary league products were Dan Barcinas, Kobee Mendoza, Kelvin Fitial, Marvin Rabauliman, Pete Iguel, John Sablan, and Jack Lizama among others.

For more information about the Diaz memorial caging, contact Rangamar at 287-6347 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

NMIFA

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off at 10:40am. All boys U17 games this month will be played at the Oleai pitch, while March and April matches will be moved to Hopwood Junior High School Field as the Oleai facility is expected to undergo repairs.

As for the boys U14 division, Angeles said NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi wants to focus on training players in this age group as the CNMI is often invited to off-island tournaments for teams in this category.

Six teams are entered in the boys U14 with Shirley's FC, Tan Holdings, Kanoa, Paire, MP United, and Matansa making up the list. Shirley's and Matansa will kick off the action in the division when they duel at 1:30pm at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, while the two other games will have Tan Holdings battling Kanoa at 3pm and Paire facing MP United at 4:30pm.

In the girls U15 division, the San Antonio Middle School Field will be the venue and six teams will also vie for the spring championship. Kanoa will take on Paire in the first game at 1:30pm, while the other pairings in the opening week are Shirley's vs MP United at 3pm and Tan Holdings vs Matansa at 4:30pm.

Meanwhile, games in the remaining age groups will all be held at the Hopwood pitch.

The co-ed U12 competitive division will have Paire playing MP United at Pitch 1, while over at Pitch 2 it will be Tan Holdings against Kanoa. Both matches will start at 1pm. Games in the co-ed U12 non-competitive will be played next from 2:20pm to 3:20pm with the following Week 1 pairings: MP United 2 vs Matansa, Tan Holdings vs Paire, and MP United 1 vs Shirley's.

In the co-ed U10 age group, games will run from 3:30pm to 4:20pm and all eight teams will play in the opening week. The pairings are Shirley's vs MP United 2; Kanoa vs MP United 1; Matansa vs Tan Holdings; and MP United 3 vs Paire.

In the co-ed U8 division, MP United 1 will duel Paire in the first game at 1pm, while Shirley's and Kanoa will collide in the second match at 1:50pm. The third game set for 2:30pm will have Matansa challenging MP United. Tan Holdings completes the field and has a bye in the opening week.

This is the first time that the U12, U8, and U10 age group games will be played in one venue and NMIFA decided to make the switch instead of spreading the matches at the various school pitches to make it easier for coaches and parents to drop off/pick up players.

Saipan Swim Club Biathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Swim Club members line up before the start of the biathlon held last month in Marpi.

Taiyo Akimaru runs to the swim-bike transition area.

A SSC member heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Jin Ju Thompson adjusts her socks at the swim-bike transition area.

A SSC member smiles to the camera as she prepares for the bike race.

Jini Thompson puts on her socks to get ready for the bike race.

Christian Villacrusis adjusts his helmet.

SSC members and coaches pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the biathlon.

SSC members pedal along the road in front of the Mariana Seaside Circuit.

Tight ends Olsen and Daniels could be decisive in Super Bowl

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Camp for Blue Ayuyus hopefuls set

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jonathan Takano, seen here trying to dribble past two Mongolia defenders during their game in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon in 2014, is among the players invited to a training camp in San Diego.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has scheduled a training camp in San Diego for players wishing to make it to the CNMI National Men's Team that will compete in the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup 2016 Preliminary Round 1.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi said the camp will run from March 9 to 13 and 13 off-island players have been invited to join the event. The list of participants in the camp has yet to be confirmed, but *Saipan Tribune* learned that among those invited were former members of the Blue Ayuyus.

Nick Swaim and Kirk Schuler, who scored one goal each in the CNMI's historic 2-1 win over Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup held in Guam in 2014, are on the list along with Jonathan Takano, Darin Kaizer, Lucas Knecht, Michael "Bo" Barry, Jehn Joyner, Jordan Butcher, Mickey Coleman, Hunter Jewell, Michah Griffin, Ethan Dickinson, and Enrico Del Rosario.

Del Rosario, Dickinson, Barry, and Knecht are currently playing in collegiate leagues, while Hunter Jewell is on his last year in high school competition and was one of the two recent off-island players to suit up for the CNMI when he played with the Commonwealth's U19 crew in the AFC U19 Championship Bahrain 2016 Qualifiers at the SCG Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. The other one was Butcher.

Coleman and Griffin were former youth players and were part of the CNMI co-ed U11 team that saw action in a tournament in Guam, while Takano and Kaizer briefly played in the M-League. Takano was also on the squad Commonwealth squad that defeated Macau in the EAFF tournament two years ago.

"The training camp in San Diego is a tryout for the EAFF tournament in July. This is also an opportunity to share tactical concept among the players and coaches," said Sekiguchi, who will conduct the camp with the help of Taketomo Suzuki.

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Ol'Aces teams lead cast in Diaz memorial caging

The Ol'Aces are fielding teams in all divisions of the Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth Basketball League (formerly Rotary caging) that will kick off on Feb. 29 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces, whose boys U19 team is fresh from a title conquest in the Tan Holdings holiday caging, will have two teams each in the U15, U18, and U21 age groups.

Joining the Ol'Aces in the U15 division are the Sonics, Kagman Risers, Rollers, and one more team whose name has yet to be decided. In

See OL'ACES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Nak Nakashima pulls up for a baseline jumper during their boys U19 title game against the Sonics in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SIDEBAR

NMIFA modifies age group for spring league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2016 NMIFA Youth Spring League will kick off next week with two new age group competitions.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-sanctioned league will have the boys U17 and U14 age groups, replacing the U18 and U15 divisions, while the biannual event will still feature the girls U15 and co-ed U12 in the competitive field and the co-ed U12 non-competitive, U10, and U8.

NMIFA staff Jersh Angeles said the slight modification in the age group was made to attract more teams and prepare U14 players for Asian Football Confederation tournaments.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth football league action on Saipan will return next week as NMIFA opens its spring season.

This spring season, the boys U17 will have five teams with Kanoa Football Club joining Paire FC, MP United FC, Tan Holdings FC, and Matansa. Last year, only four teams (MPU, Paire, Tan Holdings, and Matansa) fielded teams in both the spring and fall seasons.

Matansa and Paire will open the hostilities in the boys U17 division next Saturday as they collide in the first game at 9am at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Also seeing action in the first game are Tan Holdings and MP United, which will square

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